

How Rover's secret Project Longbow deal was done

By John Bell and Harvey Elliott



Professor Smith: It all developed from cocktail party discussions.

Mr Satoshi Okubo, chairman of the board of Honda, and one of the most powerful businessmen in Japan, was called to the telephone last Friday while waiting to board a plane for Geneva. The urgent message, came as a total surprise. His British partners in Rover were in serious merger discussions with a British engineering company.

Even though his company is crucial to the success of the deal, he was not even told the name of the company. Much later he learnt the best-kept takeover secret of the decade, that British Aerospace was negotiating a purchase of Rover from the Government.

For almost two months the details of the negotiation with the Government, which will create the biggest engineering combine in Britain and return Rover to the private sector, were known to just a handful of people; Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British

Aerospace, his colleagues Sir Raymond Lygo, chief executive, and Mr Bernard Friend, finance director, Mr Graham Day, Rover's boss, and Lord Young, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Project Longbow, as the plan was codenamed by BAE, stemmed from a chance meeting between Mr Day and Prof Smith at a cocktail party in London just before Christmas. The talk turned to an abortive

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attempt by BAE, 18 months earlier, to buy Land-Rover. Both Mr Day and Prof Smith, who became chairman of BAE only last September, soon realised that their companies might benefit from a much closer relationship. He was already aware that a team inside his company had already looked hard at Rover as a possible acquisition.

Serious discussions were deferred until after Christmas when

Mr Day called at BAE's head office in the Strand on January 12. The following morning, Prof Smith wrote to Lord Young outlining his proposals for a merger and laying down several key conditions. BAE's team developed their ideas with Lord Young's office at a series of further secret meetings mostly in London's exclusive Browns Hotel on Sunday afternoons.

The decision to put the proposals formally was agreed last Sunday afternoon and conveyed to waiting officials from Lord Young's office at the Department of Trade and Industry. Project Longbow had finally "gone live".

Long before the meeting between Mr Day and Prof Smith the idea of closer collaboration between BAE and the Rover Group had occurred to Sir Raymond after the failure of a bid by the Swiss Government to persuade Britain to buy the Pilatus training aircraft for the RAF.

The Swiss had been holding talks with Land-Rover over a possible

order for £15 million worth of the cross-country vehicles for the Swiss Army when, suddenly, in April 1986, they said they would go ahead only if the RAF bought the Pilatus PC9, which British Aerospace could manufacture under licence.

Both deals eventually fell through. But senior BAE officials had begun to look into the viability of Land-Rover and the possibility of the two companies working together.

At the time Land-Rover was in deep trouble and no one could sensibly have thought of buying it. But last summer Sir Raymond was attending an international symposium in London and was fascinated to hear a speaker from the German aircraft manufacturer, Dornier, describe how alike the aircraft company was to Daimler Benz.

"So many of their engineering skills were compatible," he said, "I remembered what we had learned

about Land-Rover and set up a special task force to look at what had happened to the company since last we looked and what kind of synergy there was between us. We had to be very careful because you do not let a company you may be thinking of buying know what you are doing.

That report provided the clinching argument for the British Aerospace board. Produced by a team of five under the head of corporate strategy and planning, Mr Ian Fraser, it revealed that Graham Day had transformed the group and that had it not been so heavily in debt to start with it would have actually been making a healthy profit.

More importantly it also revealed, hitherto unrecognised, areas of similarity. Where one company had a gap in expertise the other could fill it.

"We, for example, are great designers, inventors and engineers," said Sir Raymond. "But

we are suffering from a great shortage of production engineers. You just can't go out into the market place and employ them. Yet in Rover they were all there, highly skilled and capable, as we saw it, of being switched quickly from making motor car parts to making aeroplane parts. Between us we can count on 23,000 qualified engineers."

Computer systems were compatible, the Rover Group had already made inroads into Japan through its links with Honda while BAE had signed a deal with Mitsubishi to exchange technical information. Land-Rover were often used to pull the Rapier missile launchers, built by British Aerospace and, when linked together, the group would have enormous purchasing power for such things as aluminium in whose sophisticated use in airframes BAE is now an acknowledged world leader.

Rover had a vital 40 per cent

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Owen boost as low ballot backs merger

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The new Social and Liberal Democratic party will be launched amid a blaze of publicity today after almost 50 per cent of the joint membership failed to vote in ballots.

Dr David Owen's ambition to keep alive a strong and independent Social Democratic movement received a significant boost when almost 10,000 SDP members voted against merging with the Liberals.

The merger won overwhelming support in ballots of the members of both parties, but almost half the membership did not bother to vote on the crucial issue of

forming a "third force" at the centre of British politics.

Although the leaders of both parties celebrated the ballot results yesterday with a champagne toast, there was disappointment at the low turnout of members.

Dr Owen and his supporters in the Campaign for Social Democracy seized upon the ballot figures as proof that the new party will be launched with little of the enthusiasm needed to infuse its wider membership.

The figures, announced yesterday by the Electoral Reform Society, showed that

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Liberal members voted by more than seven to one for the merger, and Social Democrats by almost two to one.

With a turnout of only 52.2 per cent, 46,376 Liberals (87.9 per cent) voted in favour, 6,365 (12.1 per cent) voted against and 126 abstained.

Social Democrats, with a turnout of 55.5 per cent, voted 18,722 (63.3 per cent) in favour and 9,929 (34.7 per cent) against. There were 125 abstentions and 132 spoilt papers.

The figures, showing that 23,224 SDP members either abstained, spoilt their ballot papers or did not vote, have allowed critics of the merger to claim that a large section of the party has been alienated.

Dr Owen said in a statement: "This whole merger fiasco has resulted in less than a third of the SDP's July membership of 58,000 voting for merger."

However, Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the SDP, and Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberals, were jubilant at the ballot results as they prepared for the London launch of the new SLD party.

Mr Steel admitted that he would have preferred a higher turnout, but said many members in both parties had regarded the result as a foregone conclusion.

Although many would be said that it was the last day of the Liberal Party as a separate entity, Mr Steel said the membership had given overwhelming support to the decision of the party conference to back a merger.

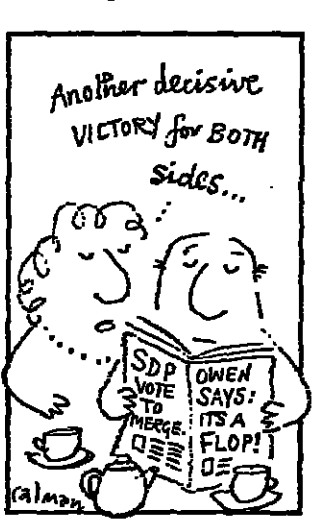
Mr Robert MacLennan defended the low SDP turnout by saying that the average of the seven previous ballots had been 47.9 per cent.

"This two-to-one vote in favour of union is a decisive result which sets the SDP on an exciting new path with our Liberal partners."

He said Social Democrats were eager to create a dynamic force capable of challenging the Labour Party and Mrs Thatcher's Government.

The new party faces the prospect of continuing warfare with Dr Owen's supporters. With local government elections due in May, both sides will manoeuvre anxiously for advantage.

Members of the Scottish Liberal Party yesterday voted overwhelmingly for a merger with the SDP, 94.4 per cent were in favour. About 50 per cent of the membership voted. There were between 30 and 40 spoilt papers. Mr Ron Waddell, the Scottish Liberals' political director, said he was particularly pleased with such a large vote.



Reagan greets Nato friend Thatcher urges nuclear update

From Richard Owen and Michael Evans, Brussels

The Prime Minister yesterday moved to swing Nato behind her in forging a strategy for the Western alliance which is based on reduced but modernised nuclear and conventional forces.

In a lengthy and forceful address to the two-day Nato summit here, she said that, despite Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's rhetoric, Soviet modernisation of both nuclear and conventional forces was "going ahead at full steam".

She declared: "We have no reason to be behind in our determination to modernize our own forces." Improvements in conventional arms were not enough, Mrs Thatcher said. Nuclear forces would always be necessary and must be kept up to date. "There is no case for further reducing nuclear weapons in Europe," she said.

President Reagan opened the summit by declaring that Nato was in a strong position as it entered its fifth decade.

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He pledged that US troops would stay in Europe as long as needed. British sources said that Nato unity would arm Mr Reagan with the "additional negotiating power" he needed for the superpower summit at Moscow in May.

In a move which appeared to underline that the summit was going Mrs Thatcher's way, even Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany fully accepted that the controversial short-range nuclear weapons would remain on German soil, and could be modernized within the framework of a comprehensive approach to arms control that Nato is to work out by the end of the year.

The "German problem" had threatened to upset the Brussels meeting, the first full-scale Nato summit for six years. West German anxieties over short-range missiles have arisen because they would explode on German territory in war. But Herr Kohl gave the

Continued on page 24, col 7



Mr Reagan smiling at Mrs Thatcher in Brussels yesterday at the start of the Nato summit.

Security van raid nets gunmen £1m

A gang of armed robbers yesterday netted nearly a million pounds from a security van after holding a guard and his wife hostages in their own home overnight.

They executed the meticulously planned robbery by kidnapping the wife and threatening the guard that she would be harmed if he did not co-operate.

The guard gave in to the threats and persuaded two colleagues on his morning shift to drive a van loaded with cash to a pre-arranged point where the gang was waiting to empty it.

Last night, police sources said the gang had got away with between £750,000 and £1 million. The security company, Security Express, refused to comment.

The incident began on Tuesday night when two of the gang of four or possibly more men burst into the guard's home in Brockley, south London.

They were brandishing pistols and threatened the couple who they held hostage overnight. A third man arrived in

17 feared dead in southern Soviet unrest

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Several people in the southern Soviet Union were killed in ethnic violence much more serious than first admitted by Moscow.

Moreover the severity of the uprising has been underlined by the fact that a special commission has been set up to assist refugees fleeing the troubled area.

Clashes last Sunday between Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians in the Azerbaijani industrial city of Sumgait - now under a dusk-to-dawn curfew - left "several victims", Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Kremlin spokesman said, stressing "Not many, but several".

But according to Mr Sergei Grigoryants, the Moscow dissident who provided the first video film of massive street demonstrations in Armenia, 17 people were killed and 70 injured in the Sumgait disturbances.

Mr Grigoryants, editor of the Moscow underground journal *Glasnost*, was quoting what he said were telephone reports from the victims' relatives. Western journalists have been barred from the area indefinitely on Kremlin orders.

The majority of the victims are Armenians, a 12 per cent minority in Azerbaijan.

There were fears last night that Kremlin confirmation of the deaths could spark further clashes in the region.

Mr Gerasimov, apparently stung by the ferocity of earlier attacks by newsmen over the Kremlin's infringement of *glasnost* in its news blackout of the troubles, claimed that he did not know the exact

death toll or the nationalities of those killed.

"I hope that they will find those responsible and bring them to justice," he added, noting that a criminal investigation was now under way in the city, the second largest in Soviet Azerbaijan.

The clashes began last month over the disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians claim the territory should be incorporated into Armenia, rather than being a part of neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Fearing a spread of the unrest the Kremlin has been desperately attempting to prevent news of the uprising reaching other parts of the Soviet Union. Western embassies here believe that it has posed Mr Mikhail Gorbachev with by far the most serious political crisis he has faced since taking office.

The full extent of the refugee problem caused by the ethnic tension is also much greater than first admitted. It has now been disclosed that a new commission will assist Azerbaijanis who fled from Armenia to return to their homes.

The local radio in Azerbaijan said the number of displaced individuals was not known. Some 160,000 Azerbaijanis live in Armenia out of a population of 3.1 million, while 475,000 Armenians live in Azerbaijan, where the total population is 6.3 million.

Local sources said that the refugee problem had been exacerbated by a rash of rumours about atrocities being committed in different parts of the region.

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Officer shot 'near Waldheim HQ'

By Robert Fisk

Evidence that another Allied army officer working with Greek partisans was murdered near Dr Waldheim's headquarters during the Second World War, has been sent to the Ministry of Defence by the man's former commanding officer.

Mr Christopher Woodhouse, who was commander of the Special Operations Executive's Force 133 in occu-

pied Greece, has written to Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, providing details of the disappearance of an Australian Army captain in German hands at Salonika in 1944.

Mr Woodhouse, who was a colonel in the artillery during the war and later became a renowned Greek scholar and Tory MP for Oxford, told *The Times* yesterday that one of

his officers, Captain "Bunny" Warren, had been captured by the Germans in early 1944 while trying to help escaped prisoners of war.

"When I read about the Government's appeal for information about missing men, I wrote to Mr Stewart," he said. "The last I heard of Warren was that he was shot in the vicinity of Salonika."

Full report, page 11

That card will do nicely, even for the Russians

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Russians, introduced earlier this year to the mysteries of the cheque book, are soon to get credit cards in a revolutionary move which will inevitably increase the trappings of Western capitalism in the Communist economy.

The reformist *Moscow News* yesterday quoted Mr Mikhail Misko, chief of a new state banking firm called Inturkart, as saying that the cards - issued in conjunction with the Visa card organization and carrying its logo - would be available for Soviet citizens holding rouble accounts and the minority with the right to save foreign currency. Credit limits will be worked out by computer on the basis of salary.

The cards, the concept of which is likely to baffle ordinary citizens, will bear the name of the holder and a magnetic tape containing information about his or her address and salary.

In the first instance, purchasing on credit will be limited to the major Moscow department stores like GUM - where shortages of goods are commonplace - because of the complexity of installing computerized facilities. Some stores still use the old wooden abacus to calculate the cost of purchases.

Mr Misko said the new Soviet card-holders would receive monthly bills which they would then have to sign and send to their banks for debiting. Comrades without a bank account could still get cards if their salaries

were transferred to credit card accounts.

The unusual move for an economy in which cheque books only became available in January comes after a long period when cash was the sole method of dealing with all transactions up to the equivalent of £5,000, above which a bank draft had to be used.

It follows recent reports of some Soviet enterprises offering shares for sale to outsiders as well as to their own employees as a way of attracting savings away from the state banks.

Yesterday's report made no reference to the ideological problems which may arise from credit cards.

At present, the most that many Muscovites have heard about them is

the rumour that Mrs Raisa Gorbachev used an American Express Gold card to buy a set of expensive earrings in London's Bond Street in 1984. But many Western sources believe the truth was that the bill, in the region of £5,000, was paid in American Express travellers' cheques.

Yesterday's article stressed that, for Soviet earners of hard currency, credit cards would be issued here under a joint venture arrangement between the Western-based Visa company and the Soviet state travel firm Intourist, and would bear the logos of both bodies.

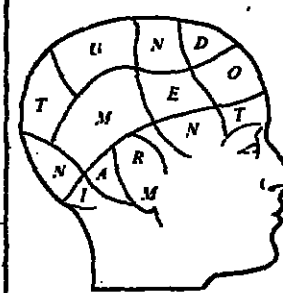
The promise of credit cards is the latest development in a revamp of the antiquated Soviet banking system ordered by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

WIN £88,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

There is still £88,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize. (Yesterday's winners, page 3).

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



Today *The Times* Tournament of the Mind enters Round Nine, with a cash prize of £5,000 awaiting the individual winner - and, for the winner of the schools' section, an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer. For today's round, turn to page 14.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Student cheating case adjourned

The degree appeal committee at Bristol University yesterday adjourned its hearing into the case of Mr Francis Foecke, a former science student accused of cheating who opted to petition the Queen, the university's visitor, instead of appearing before the committee.

Mr Foecke's lawyers yesterday received a letter from the appeal committee agreeing to a suspension of proceedings until a decision on the petition is taken by the Queen.

However, the four-man appeal committee added in a statement: "The university believes Mr Foecke has not exhausted the remedies open to him within the university and that the hearing of the appeal should be completed before any alternative redress is sought".

The petition was yesterday formally submitted to the Queen through the Lord President of Council. Mr Foecke, aged 28, is accused of cheating in two final papers in computer sciences and mathematics. He gained first class honours but the university claimed his marks were too good.

Trial date RAF pilot for Heysel is killed

The trial of 26 British soccer supporters charged with manslaughter after the Heysel stadium riot in 1985 will begin in Brussels on April 18, Belgian justice officials said yesterday.

But lawyers in Belgium expect the trial immediately to be adjourned to a full hearing in August or September.

Twenty-five of the accused were extradited to Belgium last September. All but one were released on bail to return to Britain after Belgian courts ruled they were waiting too long for trial.

The pilot of a Royal Air Force training aircraft was killed yesterday when it crashed on Southport beach, Merseyside.

The Bulldog plane from nearby RAF Woodvale burst into flames on impact. Firemen dealt with the blazing wreckage and recovered the body.

The Ministry of Defence said there would be a board of inquiry. The pilot was from the University RAF Training Squadron but has not been named. He is understood to have been about 21 and from the Manchester area.

Briton in gun inquiry

A British ballistic specialist is to assist the independent inquiry into the death of Mr Aidan McAneaspie who was shot at a British Army border checkpoint at Aghnacloy, Co Tyrone.

A solicitor for the McAneaspie family, said last night that Mr Keith Borer, of Mountjoy Research, of Durham, would join the inquiry next week.

He said Mr Borer had accepted the assignment yesterday from Mr Pat Fahy, the family's legal adviser.

Mr Fahy said the findings of the ballistic examination would be handed to Mr Eugene Crowley, the senior police officer investigating the shooting for the Irish government.

Father in rape case Deputies' training

A married father appeared before a central London court yesterday charged with four rapes, three indecent assaults and one burglary with intent to commit rape in the Notting Hill area of west London.

The man aged 31 was remanded in custody for four weeks by magistrates at Marylebone after a two-minute hearing.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted and there was no application for bail.

British Coal is going to train 100 Nottinghamshire miners as part-time safety supervisors.

Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal chairman, ended the monopoly of safety inspection work enjoyed by Nacods, after the pit deputies' 24-hour strike and overtime ban last month.

The Nottinghamshire-based UDM, angry when members were sent home without pay, volunteered to do deputy work after the strike.

Latest town hall cash play may be outlawed

By David Sapsted

Further legislation may be introduced to prevent local authorities circumventing spending controls.

The warning from the Department of the Environment, came after the decision of Brent council, a left-wing-controlled borough in north-west London, to raise £30 million by selling its town hall and other buildings to a company owned by itself.

The department said: "This is a device to flout the Government's expenditure controls. Brent, along with a minority of other authorities, are mortgaging the future at their ratepayers' expense."

"We have taken action to deal with a number of such devices in the past and we shall not hesitate to take further action wherever it seems appropriate and effective to do so."

Brent's ploy of selling the town hall to a private company of its own making - enabling the latter to raise money for the purchase in the financial market and to give the authority a rent-free period - could have been blocked by stop powers which the Government has proposed giving to the country's 13 district auditors in an amendment to the Local Government Bill currently before Parliament.

Brent is already in the midst of a cash crisis and in trouble with Mr Brian Skinner, the Metropolitan District Auditor, who last month warned the Labour councillors that they could be taken to court if they continued to live beyond their ratepayers' means.

Mr Skinner reported that an interest swap on a notional capital sum of £200 million could be illegal (it resulted in the council paying £7.5 million last August for £6.1

million it got only the month before).

He also said the borough's financial control was so weak that a £9 million deficit in 1986-87 had not been discovered until nine months into the current financial year. The council would spend £19.6 million more than it received for the year ending March 31.

"Its policy has been to bridge the gap, in the main, by accounting and financing measures which have pushed the problem to future years, rather than to address the underlying weakness by reducing expenditure or increasing income, including housing rents", Mr Skinner said.

Brent's response, announced this week, has been to sell the town hall. The £200 million sale will cost ratepayers £34 million in repayments over the next seven years. The terms of the repayment and the

extent of the rent-free period have not been revealed.

The council is also planning a £21 million cut in expenditure next year, a 9.9 per cent rates rise and a rent increase of £4.50 a week.

Brent is not alone in paying the price for former "creative accountancy" deals to raise cash.

Creative accountancy came to the fore in local government when Liverpool faced bankruptcy almost three years ago. The favoured option then, deferred purchase, has been outlawed along with leasing arrangements for machinery.

In 1986 and early 1987 Manchester raised £200 million by selling and then leasing back a variety of civic buildings including the central library, Camden, north London, thought about selling its parking meters then raised £45 million by leaseback and other schemes; Sheffield, Lambeth in south London,

and others joined the chase for the financial institutions' cash.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, has said the Government would not come to the rescue of councils.

The time for the first repayments is looming. Manchester has had to consider cutting up to 16,000 staff. Liverpool has calculated that, without cutbacks or further financing schemes, rates would have to rise by more than a third in 1988 just to pay for creative accountancy debts; Sheffield has warned that its capital programme could be "devastated".

One local government finance officer said yesterday: "The crunch is imminent. All the councils have gained a year or two but, by putting off the day when they have to face the realities of making cuts, they have only succeeded in making things much worse for themselves and their ratepayers."

Employers in Ulster may face jail for bias on jobs

By John Cooney

Failure of firms in Northern Ireland to monitor the Protestant-Roman Catholic composition of their workforce is to be made a criminal offence.

Sanctions under the legislation planned by the Government include substantial fines and the possibility of jail sentences for employers found to be in flagrant breach of the fair employment laws.

The Government, which is the main employer and contractor in the province, would withhold grants from or refuse contracts to firms in breach of the anti-discrimination policy.

Initially the law would apply to private firms with 25 or more employees. This will be extended to all public sector employers and private firms with more than 10 workers.

Under the law, 1,400 companies will be required to provide annual returns detailing the religious balance of their workforce.

The proposals were announced in Belfast yesterday by Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and by Mr Peter Viggers, the province's industry minister.

A Bill is expected before Parliament in the autumn with a view to it being enacted by the middle of next year.

The legislation will be the biggest social advance for the nationalist community since

the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

It is also a response to the militant anti-job discrimination campaign conducted by pressure groups in the United States.

While the proposals were given a cold reception as "reverse discrimination" by Unionists they were cautiously welcomed by the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Republic's Foreign Minister, welcomed the proposals as "significant and positive steps in the effort to bring about change".

Mr Kevin McNamara MP, principal Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said the proposals were inadequate.

Job discrimination, with Roman Catholics favoured ahead of Protestants and others with the same qualifications, is widespread in the Irish Republic, a report yesterday by the Campaign to Separate Church and State said.

Earlier, Mr King said that it had always been recognized by the British Government that there was no military solution on its own against the IRA. "We are going to defeat terrorism but it is not going to be done by military means alone", he said.

Farewell to village squire



Mr Robin Thistlethwaite, the new squire of Southwick in Hampshire, arriving with his wife for the funeral yesterday of Mrs Eva Borthwick-Norton (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

By Alan Hamilton

Nearly 300 tenants, relatives and friends of Mrs Eva Borthwick-Norton packed the tiny church of St James Without the Priory Gate at Southwick, Hampshire, yesterday to hear how she had fulfilled a promise made to her dying husband 37 years ago.

Mrs Borthwick-Norton, who died two weeks ago at the age of 96, was landlady and squire to the 7,700 acres of the village and estate of Southwick, near Portsmouth, a remarkably unspoilt corner of a fast-vanishing England. Her promise was to care for her inherited domain.

Her chaplain, the Rev Robert Moore, said in his address:

"This remarkable little lady has left a legacy of protected rural beauty in which it is a privilege to live". Outside, her tidy, picture-postcard village stood briefly still; the village shop closed, and only the Red Lion public house remained in business to cater for the earthly needs of the mourners.

"Dismiss suggestions that this estate has remained feudal under her direction", Mr Moore said. "Feudalism has been replaced by security of tenure under the protection of the law, and by mutual respect." It had been her wish to see the land cared for, and a tremendous improvement had been achieved since she inherited the estate from her husband in 1950.

Mrs Borthwick-Norton had no children of her own, and it was learnt last week that the estate has passed to a distant relative, Mr Robin Thistlethwaite, an Oxfordshire land agent; tablets to a previous generation of Thistlethwaites who once owned the estate adorn the church.

The new squire attended the funeral but left immediately afterwards without comment; he has already said that he will try to run the estate with the minimum of change.

Wealth, said the chaplain, can impede the route to heaven; Mrs Borthwick-Norton used much of her to preserve a little corner of heaven in Hampshire.

Nuclear accident response

Radioactivity training to continue

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that radioactive materials, sometimes attached to individuals, are used in Britain during military training exercises designed to simulate nuclear accidents.

The ministry has sent MPs a comprehensive memorandum stating that 17 such exercises have taken place since 1959, and asserting that there would be more, after demands for information from the Commons select committee on defence.

The memorandum said: "Clearly, response forces designated to respond to nuclear incidents require regular exercising if they are to be effective, and most benefit will be gained where this is at its most realistic. Accordingly, on infrequent occasions, and only where there is compelling training advantage, the use of radioactive materials is authorized for such exercises."

However, the ministry,

which runs a nuclear accident response organization, insisted that the most rigorous safety precautions were taken on every occasion and that there had never been any measurable risk to the health of any of those involved.

The average radiation dose was less than one microsievert, the equivalent of a dose "from about 50 hours shared in the marital bed because of the radioactive material in the body of one's partner".

The memorandum said that the material was either dispersed in power, pellet or heavily diluted form around the site of a simulated accident, or used in a single mass in suitable containers.

Material used as a single mass was attached for short periods to an individual or placed on the ground for purposes including training teams in detection and analysis. There were no centrally

held details of the use of these materials, but they would probably include caesium, chlorine, cobalt, iodine, plutonium and strontium.

Dispersed material included Actinium, Radium, Technetium and Yttrium, none of which had a half life of more than 11 days and all of which decayed to negligible levels within four months.

Its use was "the only practicable way of providing response teams with realistic experience of safe operating procedures".

The memorandum said the quantities were used only on Ministry of Defence land. Those involved wore protective equipment.

It said that where dispersed material had been used contaminated topsoil was removed and the area was monitored. The ministry said it had never received any claims for compensation.

Plea to Hurd over coursing demonstration

By Ronald Faux

The League Against Cruel Sports appealed to the Home Secretary yesterday for advice on how to protect peaceful demonstrations from violent troublemakers.

The move follows clashes at the opening day of the Waterloo Cup Hare Coursing contest at Great Altcar in Lancashire when 12 people were arrested.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the league, said yesterday that what had been intended as a peaceful demonstration against coursing was ruined by infiltrators carrying anarchist flags and banners hurling abuse and missiles at the police.

Ten people appeared before Ormskirk magistrates yesterday accused of threatening behaviour. They were granted bail on condition they did not approach the coursing fields.

Dr Brian Crook, a divisional scientist with Anglian Water, said a recent survey estimated that up to 40 tonnes of fish spent the winter at Potter Heigham.

"This is an extremely serious situation, but the Breeds are teeming with fish and I hope the system will recover quickly", he said.

However, Mr Sean Allen, chairman of the Norfolk Anglers' Consultative Committee, said it could take 10 years for the area to recover.

Freshwater fish can cope with a 25 to 30 per cent salinity level when there is a gradual change. This time, salinity rose rapidly, caused by a tidal surge, and proved lethal.

Dr Brian Crook, a divisional scientist with Anglian Water, said a recent survey estimated that up to 40 tonnes of fish spent the winter at Potter Heigham.

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square yards at a depth of three yards, are usually full of fish.

OXFAM AIRLIFT TO VICTIMS IN MOZAMBIQUE

THE AGONY IN MOZAMBIQUE CONTINUES. South African backed bandit forces are still brutally terrorizing whole communities, attacking civilian transport, and driving people from their villages.

Niassa province in the north is very badly hit. Over 100,000 people have fled their homes in terror leaving almost all their possessions behind. Virtually everyone lacks basic necessities such as clothes, soap, sugar and oil.

Sabotage of roads and railways has isolated the province from the outside world. Since this time last year Oxfam has responded by airlifting 1,000 tons of emergency supplies to those in greatest need. Now Oxfam is urgently helping 24,000 destitute families that are settling in safer areas.

Just £12 from you could buy enough tools for 2 displaced families to grow their own food.

Working with the Mozambique Government Oxfam is providing emergency food to keep people alive, clothing for the coming winter, and other basic necessities. People don't want to be dependent, so Oxfam is providing vital seeds and tools for them to grow their own food. Many of these supplies will again have to be flown in by emergency airlift.



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Health go £380 to avoid

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Health authorities go £380m into debt to avoid ward cuts

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities have incurred debts of more than £380 million for hospital supplies and medical equipment in an attempt to avert ward closures and cuts in patient services.

A report by the health division of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) shows that 78 per cent of the 168 English health authorities were overspent by £71 million at the end of last March and some authorities had more than a third of their bills unpaid.

Districts with the biggest debts tended to be inner London authorities already having to implement cuts in patient services, the report said. Paddington and North Kensington authority, which overspent by £1.3 million last year, had failed to pay 36 per cent of its bills.

At the end of March last year, health authorities on average owed creditors 13.4 per cent, or £379 million, of the £2.8 billion the National Health Service spends on non-pay items. Cipfa argues that this year the debts are likely to be even higher, as managers try to ward off cuts in clinical services.

"If authorities are to keep within the law and stay within cash limits, they have a lot of money to save by the end of the year", Mr John Catterall, head of Cipfa's health division, said. He added that

A parents' group may try to raise £2 million for a new intensive care unit at the Birmingham Children's Hospital in an attempt to end delays in heart surgery.

Young at Heart, which represents the parents of children awaiting heart operations, said the hospital needed a new unit purely for cardiac cases. The existing one is shared by children with other illnesses, but a shortage of specialist nurses has limited admissions for heart surgery. More than 100 children are awaiting operations.

Mr Ray Hickinbotham, the group's chairman, said it would discuss the plan with doctors and administrators at the hospital.

Movements in balances could not be used indefinitely, and scope for further cost improvements, which had already raised £300 million for the NHS, was running out.

The report emphasizes that future savings are likely to be jeopardized by lack of capital. "Any further savings will come about only by rationalization of the estate [hospital buildings], which will require capital investment", Mr Catterall, former regional treasurer for North East Thames regional health authority, said.

Capital expenditure stayed at the same level between 1986 and 1988 and next year spending will rise by only 2.5

per cent, including income from land sales.

"All the evidence points to insufficient investment in new buildings in the past and the very poor state of existing stock", the report says. "This causes a drain on maintenance programmes, demoralizes staff and makes it more difficult to provide an efficient service."

Cipfa has estimated that this year, health authorities are still heading for a £50 million overspend for the year, in spite of the £65 million allocated by the Government in December. That does not take into account the £70 million overspend carried forward from the previous year.

"Many health authorities started this financial year with a substantial overspend", Mr Catterall said.

"North West Thames region, for example, had a £12 million overspend out of its £750 million budget."

The report adds that extra money must be added to next year's allocation to the NHS and any pay awards must be fully funded. "No one should be surprised if authorities start closing wards and taking action which affects patients", Mr Catterall said.

"If allocations remain as they are, and if pay awards are not met by the Government, the problems are going to be even greater."

Treasury writes off £44m

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Treasury has secretly provided the National Health Service with £44 million on top of the additional £65 million (plus £10 million for Aids) announced for health authorities in December.

Before ministers announced the December boost, regional treasurers were told that the Treasury had also agreed to write off the £44 million which the health service was expected to pay back to the Government after an accumulated carry-forward from previous years.

The Department of Health and Social Security yesterday

admitted that the deal, disclosed in the latest *Health Service Journal*, was not publicized as the £44 million did not represent new money being allocated to health authorities.

In future, authorities will have to stick rigidly to their cash limits and will not be able to carry money forward on their budgets.

Meanwhile, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, confirmed yesterday that officials are trying to establish a new health index to help to set

long-term policy goals.

Speaking at a British Medical Association Council dinner last night, Mr Moore said the new set of indicators would give details on the effects of stress and lifestyles, more information about the prevalence of high blood pressure, treated and untreated, and levels of blood cholesterol.

The Government had a lot of information about the numbers of operations performed, but little about their long-term effects on public health or benefit to the patient.

Scaling musical heights



Two musicians hoping to perform in Music for Youth, Europe's largest youth music festival, which takes place on the South Bank in London in July. Perri Taylor, aged five, from Gatehouse school in Bethnal Green, east London, and Ben Fletcher, aged 16, from Hampstead school in north London, were among nearly 600 who auditioned yesterday. The audition was one of 28 nation-wide involving 20,000 performers. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Runcie's call over religious insults

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Blasphemy should no longer be an offence in English law, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has told the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

Instead of the crimes of blasphemy and blasphemous libel, which are specific to the Christian religion, he has recommended that there should be a new offence of "insulting or outraging the religious feelings" of any group in the community.

Dr Runcie has forwarded to the Lord Chancellor the report of a small committee under the chairmanship of the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, which rejects the majority recommendation of the Law Commission, issued in 1985, favouring the outright abolition of blasphemy as an offence.

Instead, it supports the recommendation of two Law Commission members, published as a "note of dissent", that there should be a new offence, equivalent to blasphemy, covering all religions. The present law protects only the Christian faith and doctrines of the Church of England.

The minority in the Law Commission, with which the Bishop of London's committee agreed, said there was "a duty on all citizens, in our society of different races and people of different faiths and of no faith, not purposely to insult or outrage the religious feelings of others".

The committee, which announced its decision yesterday, said freedom of religion was a recognized human right and "feelings of reverence for the sacred should not be undermined".

The lowering of the legal drink-drive limit and the introduction of random breath tests was recommended yesterday in another church report on social and legal issues, by a committee of the General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility.

The report suggests a series of measures, legal and social, which would bring greater public awareness of the perils of alcohol abuse.

Leading article, page 17

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Taxman wins share of £4,000

A tax inspector, an economist, a retired major and a housewife are the four winners who share the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Keith Thompson, aged 48, of Willow Court, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley, West Yorkshire, a tax inspector, said he had played Portfolio for only three or four months, since switching newspapers to buy *The Times*.

Mr Samuel Bloom-Nitzan, an economist, of West Heath Drive, Golders Green, north-west London, has played the competition since it started. His wife, Elaine, said the money would be spent on gifts for their two children.

Mrs Audrey Lewis, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, said she would use her prize money to replace trees blown down in last year's storms.

Major William Booth, of Llandysul, Dyfed, Wales, said he had not yet decided how to spend his share.

80% of homes need improved electric wiring

Legislation is needed to improve standards of domestic electrical wiring which is often faulty or downright dangerous, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

Every year about 40 people are killed by unsafe wiring in England and Wales, and more than 1,000 fires are caused by electrical faults.

A recent survey by *Which?* magazine found that four out of five homes inspected needed improvements to their wiring, two thirds were not properly earthed, and nearly half had faulty switches and sockets. A third of all DIY wiring was unacceptable.

The association said that safety standards had not improved since the last *Which?* survey four years ago. It wanted to see the Wiring Regulations, published by the Institute of Electrical Engineers, backed by law throughout the United Kingdom in the same way as other building regulations.

Car thefts, page 7

Christie's shares

Soaring price sets tongues wagging

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Christie's shares are continuing to jolt giddily upwards, surging from a post-crash low of 290p to 558p yesterday, dramatically outperforming the stock market average. Shares went up 42p on Monday alone.

Mr Jonathan Price, the company's financial director said, when asked why this should be so: "I don't think we know".

Mr James Flower, of the stockbroking firm Capel-Cure Myers, explained that the rise follows similar patterns in previous years at this time, with the approach of the end-of-year figures on March 27, which are expected to be impressive.

"There are perennial hopes and fears of a takeover, and they may be rearing their ugly head. We might get a big American or an Arab punter", he said.

In the past few months significant numbers of shares have been snapped up by an unidentified Swiss conglomerate,

as well as by Vivien Clore, the daughter of Sir Charles Clore, the industrial magnate who died in 1979; and Alftooh Investments, an Arab company.

The rival auction house, Phillips, had also been actively buying, while expressing a desire to join ranks with the larger company.

Christie's announced the appointment of Lord Carrington as its international chairman last month, giving rise to speculation that he might have been selected to steer them through predator-filled waters; but the moment for a bargain is over.

At Sotheby's modern British paintings sale yesterday, a private buyer spent £13,200, more than £10,000 over the

estimate, for an amusing series of drawings telling a day in the life of a pig, by Sir Alfred Munnings.

The top price was £15,950—double estimate—for a watercolour of fishing boats in the harbour at Concarneau in France, Mr David Messum, the dealer, spent £10,450 each for two paintings by women artists: "Gathering Foxgloves", by Dame Laura Knight, against an estimate of £4,000 to £6,000; and "Painting on the Beach" by Dorothea Sharp (estimate up to £5,000). The sale was a respectable, if unspectacular one, with a total of £515,856, and 17 per cent unsold.

"Fine", usually means "average to mediocre" when used within the title of an auction

catalogue, and Christie's had a successful sale of such jewellery in New York on Tuesday, at which a total of \$3 million was achieved, and a success rate of 91 per cent.

An art deco diamond bracelet signed by Tiffany & Co fetched the top price of \$121,000 (£67,978), selling to a New York collector. Other good prices included that of \$85,800 dollars (£48,202) for a single-stone diamond ring, and \$77,000 dollars (£43,258) for a diamond necklace.

Glendining's noted a reversal in the habits of medal collectors at their routine sale in London yesterday. For the past 20 years they have shown a predilection for single medals, but yesterday these changed place with groups of medals in terms of popularity.

The top lot was a group of three medals awarded to Rear Admiral Edward Boxer, who served from 1801 to the Crimean War of 1854. It sold within estimate for £3,400.

Peeress's daughter is guilty

Stephanna Branson, daughter of Baroness Warnock of Week, was found guilty yesterday of involvement in a £1 million conspiracy to defraud building societies.

Branson, aged 30, will be sentenced later today. She denied the charge.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court in south London was told that Branson, of St Rauld's Close, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, falsified mortgage applications for a friend.

Branson claimed in the forms that three people were staff at an employment agency where she worked. Graham Duffield, of the High Street, Wallingford, an insurance salesman, and Jonathan Browning, aged 43, an insurance consultant of Rydens Road, Walton-on-Thames, admit attempting to obtain mortgages with false references.

James Weir, aged 53, a club owner, of Corny Road, Chiswick, south-west London; Mark Palmer, of The Mint, Wallingford; Ian Pinkstone, aged 29, a lorry driver, of Newlands Avenue, Didcot, Oxfordshire, and Duffield have pleaded guilty to deception. All are expected to be sentenced today.

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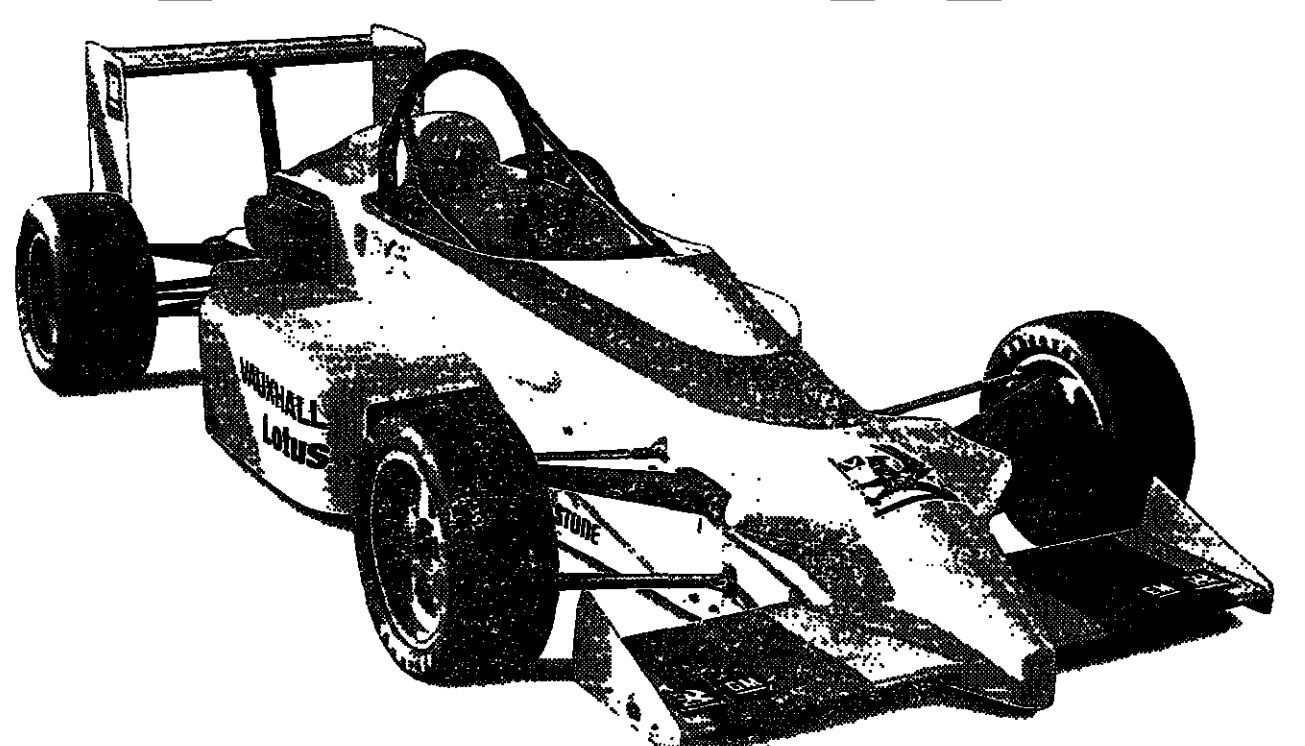
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March 2 1988

PARLIAMENT

Scots electricity will be sold off as two firms

The Scottish electricity supply industry, the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board — is to be privatized in two companies, MPs were told in a statement.

The nuclear power stations would be joined in a separate company.

The proposal was condemned by the Opposition, which said that it would fight it to the end.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, making the announcement, said that the two companies would be based on the present regionally based utilities. That would build on the existing structure of the industry in Scotland and ensure that it maintained its distinctive characteristics.

He did not consider it acceptable to create a single monopoly.

The two-company structure would provide competitive pressures and in the short term there would be potential for competition by comparison — (Opposition laughter). Customers would have a basis for comparing and assessing prices and services they received.

"By helping to ensure the effective regulation of prices, this will be an important gain for the consumer. The shareholder will similarly be able to compare the performance of the two companies."

The proposed new structure would also increase the scope for direct competition for large industrial loads and for marginal exchanges of energy within Scotland.

There was significant overcapacity in the Scottish system that could be used to export electricity to England and Wales to the benefit of both buyer and seller.

In the longer term, the structure would provide scope for much direct competition in generation. The regulatory framework would be designed to encourage independent generators to enter the market on a profitable basis.

He was confident that two

POWER

strong, well balanced and commercially sound companies capable of independent operation could be established by some modest reallocation of assets and possibly customers between the existing boards.

"I shall therefore invite the boards to consider in consultation with the Government detailed proposals for achieving this reorganization with the minimum of disruption, while ensuring that the interests of customers, which, although of different sizes, will be satisfactorily balanced in terms of mix of generating plant, amount of spare capacity and forecast levels of profitability."

An effective regulatory regime would be established to safeguard the interests of consumers, including those in remote rural communities and to promote competition. Tariffs would be regulated.

An electricity supply code would also be included in legislation updating the laws governing electricity supply and setting out the basic statutory rights of customers to receive a supply. Safety standards would be fully maintained.

"I propose that the legislation should also establish new rights for the consumer and provide for a new system of guaranteed standards of service. Where a company fails to meet these levels of service, customers will receive a predetermined level of compensation from the company."

The interests of the industry's employees would be carefully considered. They and the general public would be given attractive opportunities to acquire shares.

"In this way, a modern, effective, private-sector industry will be created in Scotland with a major stake held by the Scottish public and which will be fully responsive to the needs of customers and employees."

"Privatization of electricity offers real benefits and new prospects for the customer, the employee and the Scottish economy."

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that the proposal

was nothing more than asset stripping.

"This Government is living like a spendthrift, selling the future to finance today's expenditure."

"There is no case for replacing public utilities with a brace of private monopolies. If it is not acceptable to create a single monopoly, is he really arguing that, if they are created, they will disappear? A monopoly is a monopoly and competition by comparison is a nonsense."

"If the industry is efficient, well managed and successful, what is the case for privatization?"

Nuclear safety was being made the responsibility of directors whose overriding duty was to maximize profits for their shareholders. It was a nonsense to hand over such responsibilities to commercial instincts and then struggle to build in regulatory machinery.

There were real problems in joint control of nuclear capacity when commercial interest might diverge.

Guaranteed standards of service must be enforced and the consumer watchdog must be able to protect the consumer and ensure a humane policy on disconnections.

"The way the Secretary of State has skirted his responsibilities and watched the development of the industry in Scotland is a disgrace. It is a disgrace that it should be in two parts."

Mr Rifkind said that the result for the consumer, particularly the industrial consumer, will be of benefit.

Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C) said for an assurance that the end of an integrated system would not result in increased costs.

Mr Rifkind: One can give that assurance. I believe that the result for the consumer, particularly the industrial consumer, will be of benefit.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, Liberal spokesman on Scotland: We are opposed to privatization, but if there has to be privatization we welcome that it should be in two parts.

Mr Bruce Milne (Glasgow, Govan, Lab) said that any talk of competition between the two boards did not bear serious examination. The minister was creating two private monopolies which would be able to operate with scant regard for consumers' interests or Scotland's interests overall.

Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) said that the proposals represented a double-edged sword for Scottish consumers. First, they had paid through their electricity bills to provide the assets of these companies. Why should the proceeds of a sale go to the Treasury rather than being returned to consumers? It was inevitable that electricity bills would rise after privatization.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C) said that after all the injustices perpetrated against the PLO, it was clear to him that there was no problem about taking part in an international conference. But the principal, and so far insurmountable, obstacle to the holding of such a conference was Mr Shamir.

Mr Mellor said that there was no doubt that one section of the Israeli Government had consistently rejected the idea of an international conference as the best way forward. This was one of the issues that he hoped Mr Shultz would be able to tackle.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, warmly welcomed Mr Mellor's support for an international conference, but said that there would be no progress until Mr Shultz made proposals which went very considerably beyond those he had made.

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No 10 'too powerful'

The concentration of power in central government and, in particular, at 10 Downing Street, had increased and ought to be diminished, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (SDP) (above), the former Cabinet minister, said when opening his debate on the issue in the House of Lords.

It could not be argued that the shadowing out of local initiatives, the harassment against non-governmental institutions and the retreat from disseminating Cabinet authority was justified by the quality of administration.

"I have the impression that a great number of issues and appointments which I would have regarded as well within the prerogative of a senior Secretary of State are now settled in No 10 Downing Street."

Gladstone had regarded his Cabinet colleagues as inviolate. Mr Harold Macmillan had sacked ministers and Mr Harold Wilson "kept up the anxiety by moving us around like horses at the annual gymkhana."

Even so the present position was extreme. Only three present Cabinet ministers, other than the Prime Minister, had served for 6½ years — and all had changed jobs.

Britain now had the most centralized Government in the Western world, contrasting sharply with other nations, except France and Spain which were moving towards more devolved and regional power.

Prospects for devolution were remote, but more serious was

the Government's treatment of local government.

The Government's approach in the 1980s had been the use of every weapon in local government as an excuse for making it weaker still.

"The result has been a degree of civil degradation which it would be difficult to imagine being imposed in any other democratic country."

Nor was the Government fond of the best known independent institutions: the Church of England, the ancient universities, the BBC and the House of Lords.

"To quarrel with all four at the same time does point to a dispirited, almost intolerant, position."

BBC world TV is refused funds

No public funds will be provided for BBC External Services to launch a world television news service, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during questions.

His announcement prompted protests from Conservative backbenchers who accused him of wasting an outstanding international asset.

Mr Eggar told Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C) that the Foreign Office had seriously considered a request from the BBC for public funds to start a world television service.

"We note that a British commercial world television news service has been started without public funds and have concluded that the provision of public funds to the BBC for this purpose would not be justified."

Mr Yeo said that, bearing in mind the role and the unique reputation of BBC External Services radio broadcasts, which were a national asset, the minister's refusal to fund a three-year television experiment at a cost to the taxpayer of £1 million a year would be greeted with great disappointment.

Mr Eggar said that the Foreign Office was not stopping the BBC taking an initiative. "But we do not consider provision of public funds for start-up or production is justified."

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) said that considerable support had come from all sides of the House for additional funding for BBC

External Services and satellite television news. Before the last election, almost 250 MPs had signed a motion to that effect.

"Many will see this as a short-sighted and somewhat doctrinaire decision and a waste of an outstanding international asset, which we are privileged to have."

Mr Eggar said that he recognized the very strong feelings on the matter. "I agree that the BBC External Services and the radio section have a very fine record and a record which we applaud and which we have recognized by increasing the funding available to the external radio service by a very considerable amount over the past seven years."

"But that is not a reason in itself for making additional funds available for a world television service."

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said that much of the intransigence among Falkland Islanders stemmed from the fact that the media was in the hands of one person on the island and there was no television.

If the Government wanted more flexibility from the Falkland Islanders there was no better way than to ensure that there was a full television service available to them, so that they could see what was going on in the outside world.

Mr Eggar said that BBC External Service's *Call the Falklands* and the World Service were available in the Falklands.

Moscow talks of human rights

Human rights in the UK were raised in talks with the Foreign Secretary, "largely as a diversionary tactic," by the Russians, Mr David Mellow, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said.

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) had asked whether the Russians had raised the question of human rights in the UK at talks in Moscow between Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Soviet authorities.

Mr Mellow said they had, adding that from the smile on Mr Mullin's face it appeared that he associated himself with this and it was a jolly bad thing that he did so.

Defence view criticized

Mrs Thatcher wanted to step up Nato's nuclear threshold, whereas Chancellor Kohl of West Germany wanted to negotiate away battlefield nuclear weapons, which would turn Germany into a radioactive desert, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said at question time.

It would be much better for the Foreign Office to support Germany in seeking a nuclear-free Europe that to go along with the Prime Minister who was the last nuclear dinosaur.

Mr David Mellow, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that Mr Kaufman was distorting Chancellor Kohl's position. Quite a lot of people in West Germany did believe that, but Chancellor Kohl did not because he realized that what the Soviet Union meant by a denuclearized Europe was a denuclearized Western Europe.

Compensating gun owners

An Opposition allegation that the Government had been forced into "a humiliating climbdown" over compensating the owners of guns that will be made illegal by the Firearms (Amendment) Bill was denied by Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, during a debate early on Wednesday on a new money resolution.

The allegation had been made by Mr Robin Corbett, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, who joined MPs from all sides in welcoming the resolution.

Mr Hogg said he had announced during the committee stage of the Bill on February 9 that the Government had decided to have a "buy-in" scheme and the resolution, which was carried without a division, was the implementation of that commitment.

Article is condemned

An article by Andrew Rawnsley in *The Guardian* was scurrilous, had caused offence to many Labour MPs and would lead to representations being made to the editor, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said on a point of order.

He said that the article, which suggested that Labour MPs were either drunk, lazy or incompetent, was a totally unfair.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that he had received a letter on this subject from an MP alleging a breach of privilege. "I shall give it my most urgent consideration."

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister. Debate on the Royal Navy. Lords (3): Social Security Bill, report.

Britain and America will not see PLO

The British Government welcomed recent efforts to give new impetus to the search for a Middle East peace settlement and strongly supported the idea of an international conference as a suitable framework for negotiations. Mr David Mellow, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

He also emphasized that the United States Administration and the British Government, at Cabinet level, were unwilling to meet representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation until it had made a clean break with terrorist activities of the past.

What he called "the football supporter approach" of taking positions on one side or another, rather than attempting to strike a balance, was at all helpful in finding a resolution to this difficult matter.

He welcomed the tireless efforts of Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, and said that Britain's role was to try to assist him by talking frankly about the need for the US to tackle some of the difficulties involved. He assured the House that the Prime Minister had done so in her talks with Mr Shultz on Tuesday.

The exchanges were opened by Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C), who said that it was utter hypocrisy for Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, to condemn the PLO as terrorists.

It was essential, if Mr Shultz was to play any useful role, for the US and British governments to include the PLO in any discussions if they were to be meaningful.

Mr Mellor said that Britain had never accepted the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He hoped that it would make a clean break with terrorism so that it could play a proper role in the unfolding peace process.

Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, warmly welcomed Mr Mellor's support for an international conference, but said that there would be no progress until Mr Shultz made proposals which went very considerably beyond those he had made.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C) said that after all the injustices perpetrated against the PLO, it was clear to him that there was no problem about taking part in an international conference. But the principal, and so far insurmountable, obstacle to the holding of such a conference was Mr Shamir.

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MIDDLE EAST



Mr Mellor: Search for peace settlement welcomed

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Europe job rumours denied by Chalker

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said that there was no truth in the rumour that she would be leaving Lord Cockfield on the European Commission.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that since Lord Cockfield was the subject of the rumour, it was not surprising that the Government should have been asked to clarify the matter.

Mr Robertson said that there was no truth in the rumours which Mr Robertson and other Opposition MPs had been peddling in the press. Whatever view any commissioner took, that was his view.

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Afghanistan aid problem

There was a big problem ahead for the international community regarding aid for Afghanistan if there should be a settlement of the conflict there, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during questions in the Commons.

It was important that the reaction to any settlement was a co-ordinated one involving all major countries.

Mr Donald Anderson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that the Soviet Union, and to a lesser extent the Americans, had poured vast sums into the conflict.

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Moscow talks of human rights

Defence vic criticized

Compensation

Article's condemned

himper



Don't be deceived by the size of a 190. The moment you take the wheel and take to the road you'll realise it's a Mercedes-Benz in full measure.

Safety features are not compromised. Comfort and ride are not compromised. Handling and agility are not compromised. Build quality is not compromised. Consequently a 190 is a complete Mercedes-Benz in every respect except one - it occupies less road space.

To match the ride of the larger Mercedes-Benz the engineers developed a completely new type of suspension system for the 190 series. It consists of a unique multi-link arrangement at the rear and shock absorber struts at the front. Though more expensive to make than conventional systems, it results in a ride that is superior to even the largest cars of the competition.

This suspension system, coupled with a sympathetic drive train and a range of very lively engines make the 190 series extremely rewarding to drive. At any speed they are as quiet as limousines. They will ghost over rough city streets. At motorway cruising speeds the superb aerodynamics and under-stressed engines create the type of relaxed, secure environment that is the hallmark of the larger Mercedes-Benz models.

There are only two occasions when the compact nature of the 190 becomes apparent: when it's being forced through a tight corner or parked in a tight space.

Inside this 190 there's a larger Mercedes-Benz ready to come out

Shift down the five-speed manual gearbox or the sporty four-speed (dual phase) automatic transmission and a 190 will attack winding B roads with aplomb. It is a match for even the most demanding driver.

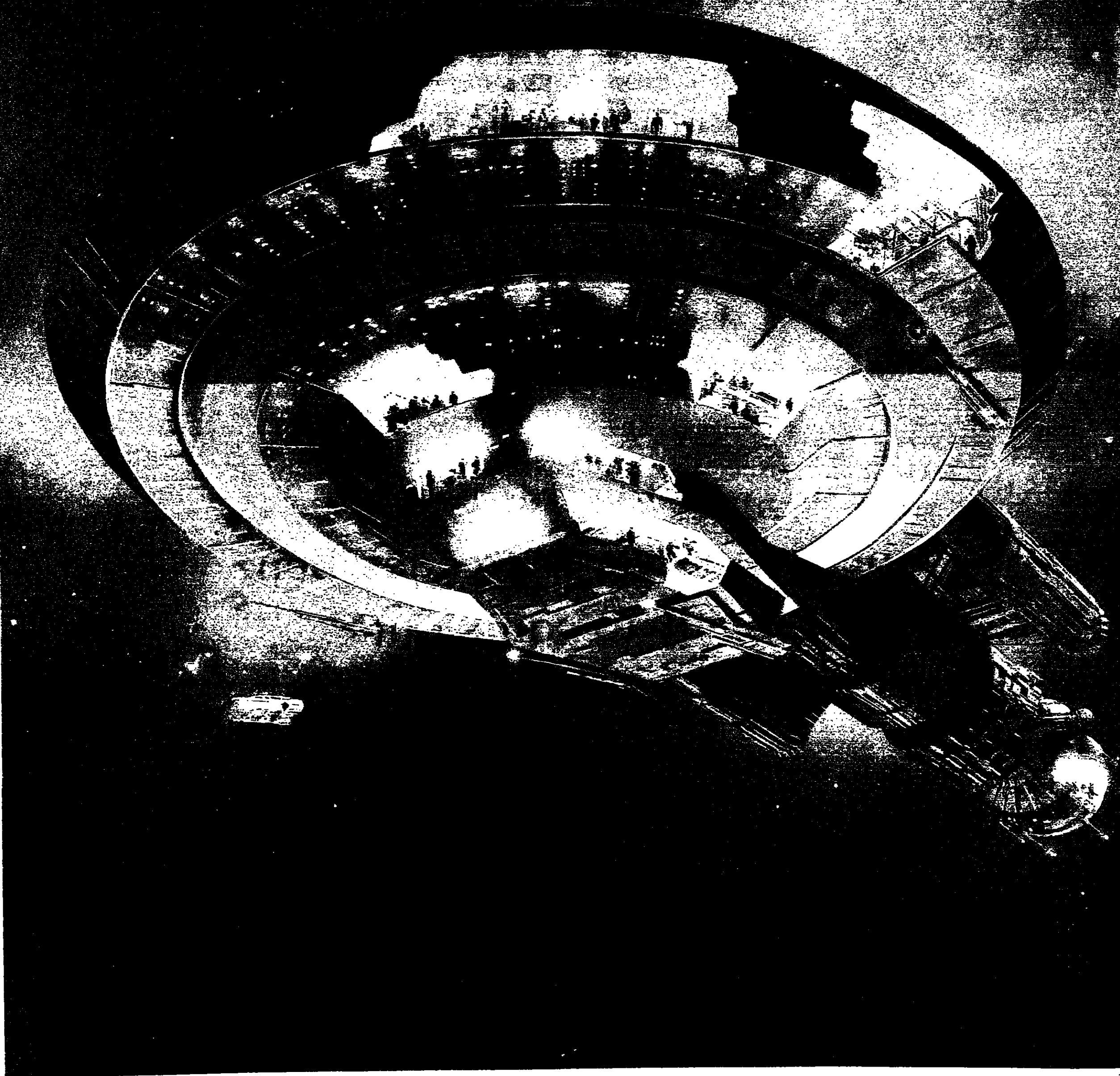
When the 190 was first introduced it was frequently compared with the larger Mercedes-Benz models. In 1988 it is much more than simply a smaller Mercedes-Benz. It is an established range in its own right. Six different cars, each with a distinctive specification and a diverse range of options, enabling the prospective owner to order precisely the 190 he needs.

MODEL	ENGINE (CC)	NO. OF CYLINDERS	BHP (DIN)	0-62 MPH (SECS)	MAX (MPH)	MPG (LITRES 100KM)
PETROL 190	1997	4	105	12.4	115	26.5 (12.6)
190E	1997	4	122	10.5	121	27.6 (10.3)
190E 2.3-16	2299	4	180	7.5	143	24.4 (11.6)
190E 2.6	2599	6	166	8.9	134	22.6 (12.5)
DIESEL 190D	1997	4	72	17.9	100	35.8 (7.2)
190D 2.5	2497	5	90	15.1	108	32.6 (8.5)



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR
IN THE WORLD.

Condensing all of the essential qualities of Mercedes-Benz into the appealing shape of the 190 has produced a remarkable car. Not only does it incorporate the passenger safety cell and controlled-deformation crumple zones first invented by Mercedes-Benz, it has the build quality, dependability and high retained value the world has come to expect from the marque. It is a complete Mercedes-Benz in every respect, only a little easier to park.



**NatWest
Business Service**

P R E S S F O R A C T I N

صبرنا من الاعمى

Emotion Zeebrugg to haunt

A team of workers is taking down the old building and hereafter it will be known as a terrace complex.

The customers are being sent to the fair-price shops in the suburbs.

The police officers were surprised to find that many of the strikers have been arrested during the course of the strike.

An "anti-national strike" was called last week.

In an attempt to clear the ground first, the Government refused to attend the King's Cross line, the first stage of the anti-social movement — some of counsel with the case which closed March 10.

"The people have realized that we are coming before them," said one of the anti-socialists.

"Some under-privileged groups are suffering from the fact that others did not."

Lingering

By David S. ...

John C. Stedman went to go when he was through with the Herald of Freedom, and he rolled the dice as part of it.

Beyond that, he is known as a man even when men were after the man — and that was the girl he killed found.

There is a poor man in a room, a victim of a land's power. Stedman's wait for the period to the evening on.

"What
brings with
and I am
we have great
burial?"
Win Gardner
home in St. Albans.
Mr and Mrs
Mrs Moberg
lives in the
circumstances
deaths, many
survivors but
Assistance
in the hope
come forward
of Alan in the
"I would just
what Alan was
he was. Without
nothing," says
who lives says
Emily, aged
Melba, aged
Ward area.
"I have not even
give you that time
has been found. I
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telling them that
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On Sunday
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tion of a window
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Inside

The Car...
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Emotional scars of Zeebrugge continue to haunt survivors

By David Sapsted

A team of 16 Kent social workers is helping survivors and bereaved families to come to terms emotionally with the extent of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster a year after the sinking. It was disclosed yesterday.

The professional counsellors confirmed that only four of 42 crew members who survived the Zeebrugge tragedy have been able to face returning to sea and that many of the survivors and bereaved are "sadly in no better emotional state today than they were a year ago."

In an operation pioneered after the Bradford football ground fire and subsequently refined for victims of the Hungerford massacre and the King's Cross Underground fire, the Dover-based Herald Assistance Unit - manned by staff from Kent County Council's social services department - sees no end to its role of counselling those connected with the capsize of the ferry, which claimed 193 victims on March 6 last year.

"The emotional ripples have extended much further than we expected. A lot of people are still struggling to come to terms with what happened. It could be years before many of them finally get over Zeebrugge," Mrs Janet Johnston, one of the unit's senior counsellors, said. Among the problems still facing the unit, which has cost the county council more than £260,000 in the past year, are an increase in alcohol abuse and severe marital problems.

"Some families are still under enormous stress. Many survivors still cannot accept the fact that they lived when others did not. They find they

must keep talking about it. There is deep-rooted guilt and they keep asking themselves if they did enough to help others. On the other hand, some wives say their husbands will not talk about the tragedy at all, even after a year," Mr. David Wilkinson, the unit's director, said.

One woman has reported a marital breakdown because "somebody different came back" from Zeebrugge: her husband went to Belgium to help with the rescue operation.

A Belgian diver, one of the first in the ferry, admits to recurrent nightmares and heavy bouts of drinking since the disaster.

A crew member who operates the doors in another ferry and had nothing to do with the tragedy is currently being counselled because the disaster and recent, totally unconnected death of his father have become intertwined emotionally.

Immediately after the disaster, Kent social services set up a three-pronged operation: a support unit to help families and survivors in Zeebrugge; a telephone helpline in Dover and a counselling service at Townsend Thoresen headquarters.

"People could not accept what had happened. Really, all we could do at that stage was to try to help them to understand that they could not accept it," Mrs Johnston explained.

The Herald Assistance Unit was formed soon afterwards, with the service split between home and away teams, the latter making (and still making) visits to survivors and the bereaved throughout the country, as far north as Cum-

bria and as far west as Penzance.

Although the counsellors were all trained social workers, none had experience of dealing with a disaster.

Essential experience from the Bradford fire was passed on within 24 hours of the capsize. With it came a warning that it might take a year or more before the full psychological effects of the tragedy became apparent.

Since the start of the grieving process, counsellors have been surprised at both the survivors' deep-rooted manifestations of guilt and the widespread effects on others far removed from the actual disaster, particularly other ferry crews. At least six former Townsend Thoresen staff, not immediately connected with the disaster but sent to Belgium to help cope with its aftermath, have since left the company.

The emotional problems, Mr Wilkinson said, were compounded by the length of time it took to hold inquests and the string of interviews and psychological tests, some of which still continue, connected with compensation claims.

Lessons are still being learnt which will contribute to a counselling guide for future disasters being drawn up by Mr Peter Hodgkinson, a Kent psychologist, and Dr Colin Murray-Parkes of London University.

For the moment, though, the Herald Assistance Unit has its own problem: a year on, members of the unit itself are finding themselves victims of stress caused by the emotional pressures of Zeebrugge.

Bodies still missing

Lingering hurt of bereaved

By David Sapsted

John Gaylard and Alan Stedman lost their lives a year ago when the ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* was wrecked in the Dover Straits. The bodies of the two men have not yet been recovered.

Beyond that, nothing is known about how, why or even where the two young men died. Twelve months after the tragedy, their bodies - and that of an eight-month-old girl whose mother was also killed - have still not been found.

There have been funerals, post mortem examinations and inquests for the 190 other victims, but for John Gaylard's parents and Alan Stedman's wife, the agonizing wait for news of what happened to their loved ones on the evening of March 6 goes on.

"What happened at Zeebrugge will not be over for us until John's body is found and we have given him a Christian burial," says his mother, Mrs Win Gaylard, at the family home in St Albans.

Mr and Mrs Gaylard and Mrs Maggie Stedman have tried in vain to discover the circumstances of the two deaths, making appeals to survivors through the Herald Assistance Unit's newsletters in the hope someone will come forward who saw John or Alan in the ferry.

"I would just like to know what Alan was doing, where he was. Without that, I have nothing," says Mrs Stedman, who lives with daughters Emily, aged seven, and Melanie, aged four, in the Watford area.

"I have not even told the girls yet that Alan's body has not been found. How do you explain that? It is hard enough telling them that daddy has gone."

On Sunday Mrs Stedman, her children and Mr and Mrs Gaylard will be in St Mary's Church, Dover, for the dedication of a window to the ferry victims. It will be the chil-



John Gaylard: planned surprise silver wedding visit



Alan Stedman: bouquet arrived the day after

dren's first outside exposure to the Herald disaster, though Mrs Stedman has kept a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings and, last year, taped the memorial service at Canterbury Cathedral so that she will be able to discuss the tragedy with her daughters when they are older.

During the year of waiting, the Gaylards and the Stedmans have formed a bond of friendship. Based on their shared loss, "Maggie is about the only one who can really understand what it is like not to have a grave to mourn over," Mr Kenneth Gaylard explains.

Both men were in the Services; John, aged 36, was in

the Royal Artillery and was returning home for a surprise weekend visit for a family silver wedding celebration. Alan, aged 31, was an RAF driver in the throes of transferring from Berlin to Cornwall. His wife and daughters had flown to Britain two days earlier.

Mrs Stedman was virtually certain her husband was aboard the ferry but, in a heartbreaking twist to the tragedy, a bouquet of flowers arrived for her on the morning after the sinking, her 31st birthday. Her husband had arranged for them to be sent before boarding the ferry.

It was not until the Monday that two police officers arrived to tell the Gaylards, already fearing the worst, that their son had died.

Since then, the two families have been waiting for news of the recovery of the bodies. Hopes were raised late last year when the 190th victim's body was brought to the surface by a dredger off Zeebrugge, but the Belgian authorities admit that, after sweeps of the sea bottom by divers after the removal of the Herald, the active search for bodies has been abandoned.

"If anything, the waiting has become worse over recent months. There are still moments when I expect to see John come through the door, beaming as always," Mr Gaylard says.

His wife adds: "The strain was getting unbearable last year and we had to get away. So we went to Malta but, when we were coming back, we flew over the North Sea. I looked down and thought: 'My kid's under there somewhere'. It spoiled everything."

Mrs Stedman, anxious to have a suitable memorial stone for her husband, has arranged for an inscribed plinth to be sited in a churchyard near Huntingdon. It will stand next to a tiny grave: the resting place of Alan and Maggie Stedman's two-day-old daughter Gemma who died five years ago.

Filled to the brim with Shilling style



Darling, worn by Helen, yesterday.



Devil-may-care (left), worn by Anabel, and Sparkle, worn by Goodey (Photographs: Peter Trievnor).

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

A Shilling *chapeau* can always be picked out in a crowd. Devil-may-care, the monumental confection scribbled on the lines of Sydney Opera House in hand-lacquered straw, from the David Shilling spring costume collection, is layered in psychedelic shades of orange, yellow and pink for added impact.

"A big hat is essential to balance the silhouette of the tiny skirt," an unrepentant David Shilling said, as he put on a display of his latest hats in springlike sunshine in London yesterday.

his show, and blocking the view of anyone sitting behind her, was the customer who gamely wears the designer's most dotty creations. She had decided to wear a giant hatbox tied up with a bow for the event.

For Ascot 1988 David Shilling has cast himself in the role of the Mad Hatter, introducing his new collection of overscaled headgear. At the other extreme, tiny upskirt, as a re-run of Alice's adventures, but in Shillingland.

At his wildest he layers cartwheel brims two at a time, the straw folded and pleated for an origami effect. A triangular cut-out in the lower brim provides the essential

"window" framing the face. Military-style cockades of iridescent plumes, wigs of cog feathers, are among the relatively more discreet topknots dreamt up by this maddest of delightful hatters whose one-off extravaganzas range in price from £300 up to £3,500.

David Shilling also displayed a romantic streak, shaping large picture hats in natural straw, which he trimmed with sheaves of wheat and grass. "Lovely for country weddings and Henley".

As well as whipping up outrageous hats and headaddresses, he has extended his design range to include china, wallpaper, furnishing fabrics and ceramics.

State of British roads

Lorries inflict £600m damage

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Department of Transport was condemned by a 38-tonne lorry 10 per cent overloaded for one year produces additional gross receipts of more than £10,000.

The risk of overloading detection was too low and given the profits achievable, the average fine of £161 was "derisory" and "meaningless," said the report.

It disclosed that the department's programme for installing dynamic weighbridges was five years behind schedule, that a quarter of those installed were out of action at any one time, and that several had been out of action for more than two years.

No use was made of screening devices. "We are surprised that the department has taken so long to exploit the benefits of technology already developed and used overseas."

The report said that foreign lorries were even more likely to be overloaded and that the department was "over-optimistic" in believing that spot-checks at ports had a significant deterrent effect.

A quarter of the 5,732 foreign lorries weighed by traffic examiners last year were so overloaded that they were served with prohibition notices on safety grounds. The committee said the department should consider compulsory weight checks at ports.

However, it was not just for failing to act against overloading that the department was taken to task.

The committee reported that £100 million a year could be saved by ensuring that heavy lorries were fitted with improved suspension systems. The department had been aware of the shortcomings of conventional suspension systems since the early 1970s, but failed to even begin research into the alternatives until 1986.

It should have taken "earlier and stronger action" to encourage the use of better systems, and its present system of limited fiscal incentives was unlikely to be effective.

In addition to the £600 million damage which heavy lorries caused to roads, more

than £100 million of damage was caused to underground pipes and installations. The department acknowledged the need for research in this area in 1983, but began the research only in 1987.

The committee said the department should review priorities and prepare a firm action plan.

The Department of Transport said yesterday that it could not comment until a formal reply had been sent to the committee.

Mr Robert Sheldon, the committee chairman, said the consequences of the department's inaction could be seen from the thousands of cones littering Britain's roads. The committee had called for action and would be checking that it was taken.

There are 435,000 lorries on Britain's roads and their numbers are increasing. The maximum weight limit was raised from 32.5 tonnes to 38 tonnes in 1983.

Committee of Public Accounts: Regulation of Heavy Lorries (Stationery Office, £3.90).

Aids talks for CBI and unions

By Kerry Gill

The increasing number of people infected with Aids will mean that most major employers will have sufferers on their payrolls by 1990, according to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Ignorance of the disease's nature could lead to intolerable discrimination, unless management and workforce are given a proper understanding of the disease, Acas said.

The service announced yesterday a conference next month involving the CBI and trade unions in Scotland in which both sides would be encouraged to adopt realistic attitudes towards Aids.

Mr Matt Cockran, the Acas director for Scotland, said it was essential that employers prepared themselves for what could be a difficult period.

The main thrust of the conference will be to stress that the risk of catching Aids at work is minimal.

Vehicle security test

Cars entered within seconds

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A demonstration of how easily cars can be broken into was yesterday laid on for Mr John Patten, the Home Office Minister of State responsible for crime prevention.

The Consumers' Association organized the stunt in support of its call for manufacturers to improve car security. Entry was made by a man described as a "vehicle technician" who was reluctant to give details of himself, except to say he was a security expert.

Mr Keith Nisbet, project manager for the association, said: "We have been looking at car security for at least the last decade and there has been no real improvement. There are signs that one or two makers are getting better, but they are improving on a very poor standard."

Mr Patten noted that not one of five cars tested took longer than 10 seconds to enter and the average time was two or three seconds.

A survey in the associ-

ation's magazine, *Which?*, published today shows that the security expert broke into nearly all of 56 cars tested in seconds using unsophisticated tools and without damaging the car. Not one door without a test.

The most successful was the Vauxhall Carlton, which resisted for 25 seconds. It has deadlocks that could flummox a thief unfamiliar with the design.

The magazine wants to see more positive action, in line with the British Standard, from car manufacturers. Few offer high security equipment even as an option, although door security could be improved inexpensively, *Which?* says.

To meet the British Standard for car security published in October 1986, a locked door should be able to withstand attempts to unlock it for up to four minutes; yet no car door has to date held off the *Which?* security expert for

more than about 30 seconds.

In a recent survey of *Which?* subscribers a fifth said they had had their car stolen, broken into or vandalized in the last two years.

Mr Patten said at the demonstration that the Rover Group is to produce a theft-proof car to be ready for the Home Office standing conference on crime prevention in London in December. "This will be a one-off vehicle displaying a range of the latest technology in car security."

Mr Patten said the level of car crime was unacceptable and avoidable. One in five motorists did not lock their vehicles.

Mr Peter Beattie, chairman of the vehicle security working group of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "Far from being uninterested in adopting the new British Standard it is largely due to the manufacturers' efforts that the new standard is such a stringent one."

Factory in inquiry on cancers

By Peter Davenport

An environmental watchdog committee is being set up by Humberside County Council to investigate alleged links between children with cancer and radioactive discharge from a local factory.

The decision was announced yesterday as officials at the Department of the Environment moved to calm fears that emissions from a smelting plant may be linked to a cluster of cancer cases.

They said there was no risk to the public posed by the discharge of the radioactive isotope, polonium 210, into the atmosphere.

Over five years in the villages of Willerby, Kirkella and Anlaby, near Hull, Humberside, 12 children under the age of 16 have suffered various forms of cancer. Seven have died.

One statistician put the odds against such an outbreak as a million to one, but local health officials have put the above-average number of cases down to chance.

Possible connections between the illness and a large metal smelting plant, Copper Pass, five miles away at Welton, on the north bank of the Humber, were raised yesterday by the *Yorkshire Post* newspaper.

One of the waste products from the smelting process discharged from the company's 600-foot-high chimney is polonium 210.

Yesterday, however, the Department of the Environment said that regular checks showed that the waste emitted from the stack was only 10 per cent of the authorized level of 592 megabecquerels a week.

"There is no risk to the public. If there was they would be informed. The local authorities in the area have all the information about the company's operations," the department said.

An investigation by H.M. Inspectorate of Pollution in 1986, during which an independent analysis was made of samples from the main stack and surrounding monitoring stations, validated earlier results.

However, Humberside County Council yesterday announced that it was setting up a special environmental watchdog committee to investigate all sources of pollution that were causing concern in the area.

Inside a private Royal Castle

The Castle of Mey in Caithness is the only house the Queen Mother owns personally. After tracing its long history, Country Life shows how its royal owner has restored both castle and gardens.

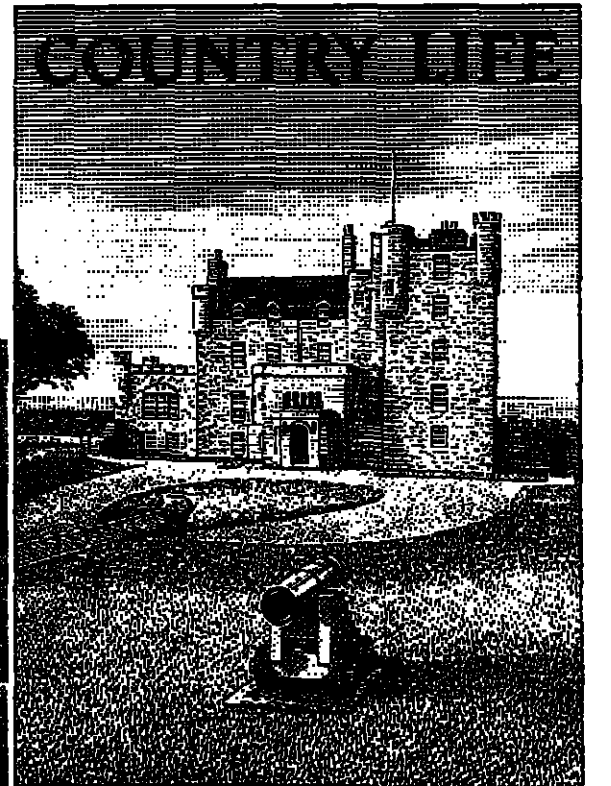
Also in this week's issue: the results of the Country Life Farming and Wildlife Award;

Richmond House, Whitehall's most imposing new office building; the Avon Vale Hunt's prospects for its second century; early botanical trading with Canton.

Plus the usual informed coverage on gardening, sport, antiques, the arts, fashion and motoring.



Out today



est service

Lord Whitelaw, Denis Potter and Twiggy join search for cause of disease that affects millions

Test tube skin to provide hope for psoriasis victims

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Specialists in skin disorders believe that at last they have a possibility of understanding the cause of psoriasis, a disease that affects more than two million people in Britain.

In its worst form, dramatically highlighted by the central character in the television series *The Singing Detective*, it can be lethal.

Dr Richard Staughton, a consultant dermatologist at Westminster and St Stephen's Hospitals, in London, said the prospect of a cure depended on a new research technique for growing layers of skin in the laboratory.

As the "reconstructed skin" grows from the size of a pinhead to a patch three inches in diameter, scientists will look for the variations in the cells and biochemical molecules between normal and defective skin.

He said any persistent skin condition was torture for the sufferer.

Dr Staughton was describing the new method for growing test tube skin at the launch of the Skin Treatment and Research Trust, START, which is appealing for £1 million to keep the work going.

The reconstructed skin has

two main applications. Diseases can be simulated in the laboratory and so new treatments can be tried in the test tube, not on people or animals.

The test tube skin will aid research to help children with crippling skin disease and disfiguring birthmarks and also shed light on why skin cancers, the most rapidly

6 Persistent skin conditions are torture for the sufferer

spreading cancer in the UK, develop and how it can be treated.

The research may also: Help people who have severe burn injuries; Help the elderly with ulcers and pressure sores that will not heal; Provide tissue for artificial skin grafts; Help doctors understand the ageing process in the skin and replace animal experiments.

However, Dr Staughton and his colleagues Dr Christopher Rowland Payne and Professor Ariel Lant are concentrating on the search for a cure for psoriasis.

Dr Rowland Payne has created the first laboratory in Britain to grow reconstructed tissue, which behaves exactly like normal skin, after studying in Paris with Professor Louis Dubertret, who pioneered the idea.

Many political and public figures, including Lord Whitelaw, Sir George Porter, Sir Anthony Quayle, Denis Potter, Twiggy and Terry Wogan, are supporting the trust.

One of the patrons, Miss Anita Roddick, the founder of Body Shop, chose yesterday's launch to call on the cosmetics industry to support this research that offers an alternative to animal testing.

In addition to donating money for laboratory equipment, Miss Roddick has paid for the production of a video explaining the research and how it could replace animal experiments.

She said: "I am part of an industry that does not always make me feel proud."

"The cosmetic industry is not well-known for putting anything back into society."

She said the cosmetics industry paid great lip service to finding alternatives to animal testing. The development of

artificial skin will play a big part in making alternative testing happen, she said.

Over the past few years plastic surgeons have developed a method of growing single layers of skin for grafts.

The new reconstructed human skin behaves like natural tissue because it grows in all its layers.

Normal skin consists of two parts. The surface layer is called epidermis and is composed principally of epidermal cells, which grow up to form a multi-layer covering that protects the body from the environment.

The underneath part is called the dermis, and is composed mainly of cells known as fibroblasts, which lie in a matrix of fibres made from a material known as collagen.

It is these underlying fibres of collagen which change to create lines in the skin with ageing.

Preliminary results from research by Dr Rowland Payne suggests that in psoriasis there is a defect in the molecules which are exchanged from the bottom layer of the skin into the top, which triggers the scaly condition seen on the surface of the skin.



Lord Whitelaw and Twiggy at yesterday's launch of START, a skin disease research trust. Also pictured is Jack Staughton, aged five, son of Dr Richard Staughton, a dermatologist and patron of the trust. The trust aims to find a cure for psoriasis and other skin diseases by growing fresh tissue in the laboratory (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

King's Cross inquiry

Rail station staff had 'low morale'

Morale among workers on the London Underground was low because their complaints about rubbish and litter were not acted upon, the King's Cross disaster inquiry was told in London yesterday.

Staff complained when cleaning was made the responsibility of outside workers, Station Inspector David Dhanpersaud told the inquiry.

Mr Dhanpersaud, one of two station inspectors on duty during the night of the blaze, which killed 31 people, was asked about complaints he had raised with his superiors regarding "seriously inadequate" facilities in a temporary operations room at the station, and also about the effect of giving station cleaning work to outside teams.

Mr Charles Pugh, counsel for the bereaved and injured, asked: "Had there been anything done that you can discern about your reports about rubbish and litter?"

Mr Dhanpersaud said nothing had been done. This had caused morale to be very low.

Staff were supposed to be trained to deal with fires and evacuation procedures, he said. That had not been done at King's Cross.

The first he knew of the fire was when a traffic manager based at Ears Court tele-

phoned him to say he had heard there was a fire on the Piccadilly Line escalators.

Mr Pugh asked: "Was it a usual event for a traffic manager to telephone you to tell you about a fire at your station?"

Mr Dhanpersaud said it had never happened before. His reaction was to send two railmen to investigate.

He said he received the telephone call about the fire at about 7.40pm — just five minutes before the fire engulfed the ticket hall.

When one of the railmen returned in a hurry to tell him of smoke coming from the Piccadilly Line escalators, he went there himself, and then went into the machine room with the second station inspector on duty.

Mr Dhanpersaud said he switched off the power to the Piccadilly Line and Victoria Line escalators as he entered the machine room, but did not think of turning on the water fog sprinkler system. Smoke built up rapidly.

The two men made their way below the Victoria Line escalators to the platform areas, where they helped police evacuate passengers.

The inquiry continues today.

Virgin tackles BA on Gatwick routes

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Richard Branson must overcome opposition from British Airways before he can capitalise on the licence his Virgin Atlantic airline has been given to fly to Los Angeles and New York.

BA must formally merge the existing B-Cal licence with its own before the Department of Transport can even approach the United States' authorities to have Virgin recognized as a British competitor across the Atlantic.

However, the US will allow only two British carriers to operate from London to New York and Los Angeles, and at the moment those two airlines are BA and B-Cal.

Once they are formally merged, and that will take several more months, Virgin will ask the Civil Aviation Authority to stop BA flying between Gatwick and the two American cities.

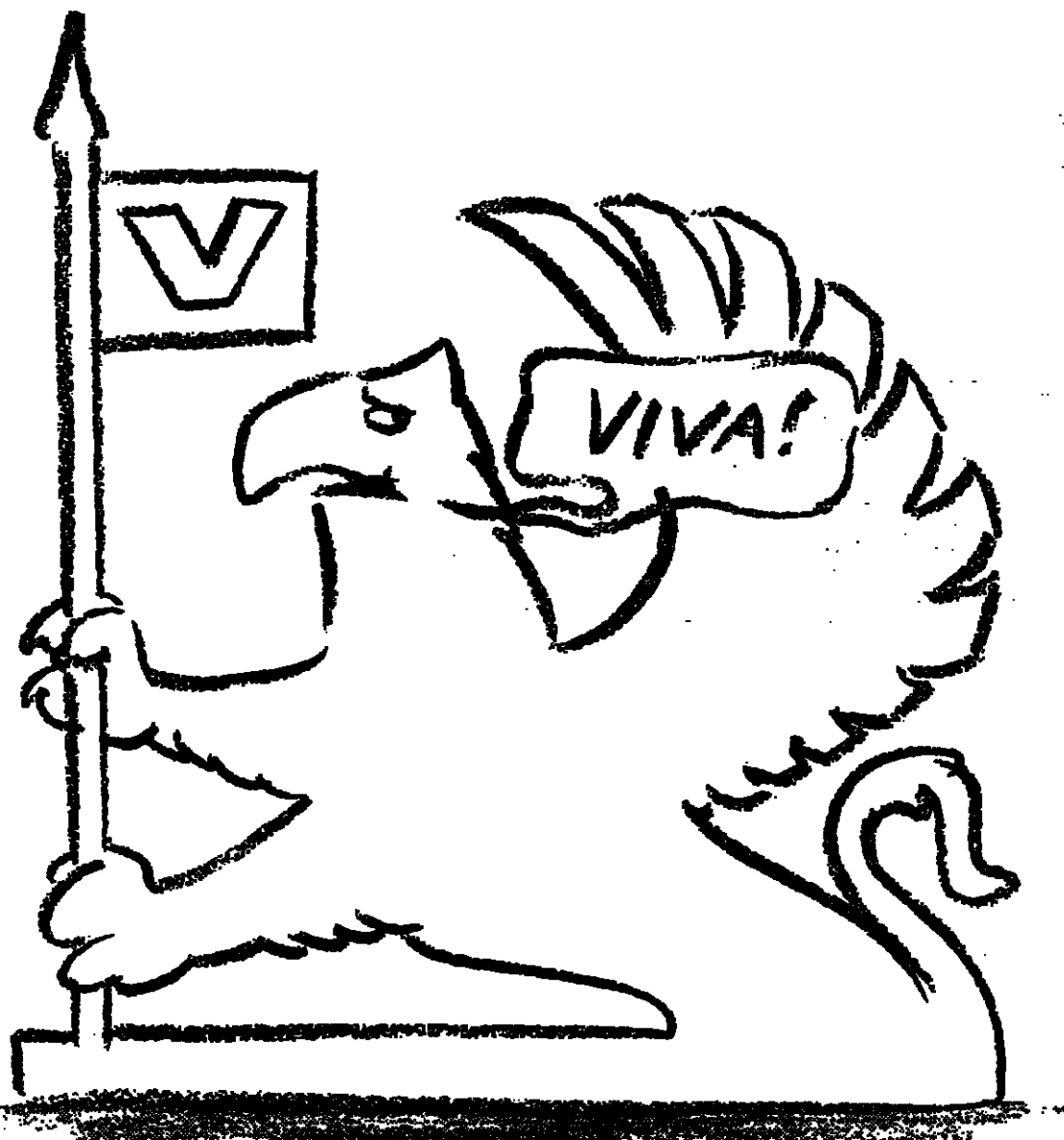
Last night, Mr Branson, the chairman of Virgin who is pressing BA to make the

licence adjustments that will enable him to begin his operations, admitted that unless the CAA backs him and limits BA to flights from Heathrow only there is no chance of him making a long-term profit.

He said: "It will be the big test of the Government's competition policy. It will cost us at least £2 million a year by having to fly from Gatwick rather than Heathrow because the shorter runway prevents us from uplifting as much cargo as we could from Heathrow. Although we can live with that it would be completely wrong in our view if BA were allowed to operate from both airports."

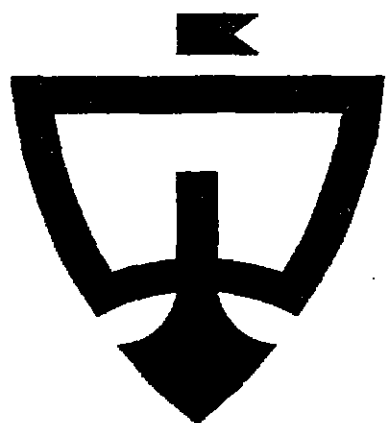
He will have a chance to put his case before a full CAA hearing scheduled to start on July 4, but BA will fight hard to ensure that its Gatwick operation is not grounded.

Yesterday, BA said: "Mr Branson now seems to want not competition but a monopoly out of Gatwick."



What else can they say on March 10th?

Our preliminary results for 1987 will be published on Thursday, March 10th. You may find them mildly surprising.



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WORLD SUMMARY

Gorbachov plays down birthday

Moscow — Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin leader, yesterday celebrated his 57th birthday, but as befits a man who is against the cult of personality so beloved of his predecessors, there was no mention of the fact in the official Soviet press (Christopher Walker writes).

Yesterday, it was hard to find a single Muscovite who was aware that Mr Gorbachov had just reached 57, and most I spoke to seemed to like it that way. "We were completely fed up with the way leaders like Brezhnev used to advertise themselves," one explained.

In keeping with the veil of secrecy which Mr Gorbachov holds down over all aspects of his private life, it was not even known whether he had a birthday party with his wife Raisa (aged 53, according to Soviet sources), daughter Irina, and grand-daughter Oksana.

Soldier kills seven

Colombo — A Sri Lankan soldier shot dead seven colleagues and wounded six others at an army camp near Colombo yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The soldier, who was on guard duty at Oruvala, 15 miles from the capital, fired about 50 rounds from his rifle before his commanding officer, who was among the injured, managed to wound him fatally.

Police believe the soldier belonged to the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) which has been blamed for a series of political killings, and that his action was part of a bungled attempt to steal weapons. A motorcycle, thought to be carrying accomplices, was heard leaving after the shooting.

Pollution sentence

Tokyo — After a legal battle waged over more than 30 years, Japan's Supreme Court has upheld jail sentences against leaders of a company responsible for poisoning thousands of people with mercury and opened the way for hundreds to seek compensation (David Watts writes).

In the late 1950s Chisso Corporation was found to be pumping waste containing organic mercury into Minamata Bay on the southern island of Kyushu. More than 2,000 people were poisoned, 829 fatally.

Rejecting an appeal by the two men, the court overruled the firm's contention that the statute of limitations should apply and held that unborn children also could be considered victims.

Sanjay Front merger

Delhi (Reuters) — The estranged sister-in-law of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, is merging the political party she formed in 1982 with the leading centre opposition group, according to the Press Trust of India. Mrs Maneka Gandhi's National Sanjay Front, named after her dead husband Sanjay, will merge with the Janata (People's) Party.

Mr Akbar Ahmed, the Front's vice-president, said in Lucknow that the move was necessary to bring about opposition unity. The merger will be formalized on March 12 in Uttar Pradesh, her husband's constituency which her brother-in-law now represents in Parliament.

Dissident in print



Belgrade (Reuters) — The Yugoslav literary figure, published a short story by Milovan Djilas, left the leading dissident. His first work published at home for 34 years, it was printed so that readers could "judge him on his literary merits". Mr Djilas, aged 76 and once a close lieutenant of Tito, fell into disgrace in 1954, serving nine years' jail and being expelled from the party for criticizing Tito's policies.

Nato challenges Moscow on conventional arms

From Richard Owen and Michael Evans in Brussels

Nato leaders yesterday issued a strong challenge to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov to reduce the huge superiority in Warsaw Pact conventional forces. "Tens of thousands" of weapons based in East Europe would have to go, it was agreed at the summit of Nato heads of governments in Brussels.

For the first time, Nato listed its objectives for a conventional forces reduction treaty with the Soviet Union. A detailed statement, which was intended to be Nato's "game plan" on the key issue of conventional weapons, was issued at the end of the first day of the summit.

Mrs Thatcher told the summit that

the Soviet leader had stated clearly in public that he would agree to asymmetrical cuts in conventional forces, and he must be made to stick to that promise. By her insistence, the Nato statement on conventional forces also referred specifically to the need for an up-to-date and effective nuclear arsenal.

"Although conventional parity would bring important benefits for stability, only the nuclear element can confront a potential aggressor with an unacceptable risk," the statement ran. "Therefore, for the foreseeable future, deterrence will continue to require an adequate mix of nuclear as well as conventional forces."

Talks on conventional force reduction have been going on unsuccessfully for more than 14 years

in Vienna, and at yesterday's summit it was decided that the West must now take the lead in bringing this crucial issue to a head. Diplomatic sources hoped that new talks could start this year.

Under the criteria laid down in the statement, the main priority was focused on reducing weapons systems which could be used in a "surprise attack" by the Warsaw Pact against Nato forces.

The statement added that the Soviet conventional superiority and its military presence in other East European countries "cast a shadow over the whole of Europe". Soviet conventional forces represented 50 per cent of all active divisions in Europe between the Atlantic and the Urals.

The statement outlined the nego-

tiating position which will now form the basis of Nato's approach in the forthcoming conventional arms talks. The key points are:

- The establishment of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels.

- The elimination of the capability for launching surprise attacks and for initiating large-scale offensive action.

- "Highly asymmetrical reductions by the East", which would entail "the elimination from Europe of tens of thousands of Warsaw Pact weapons relevant to surprise attack, among them tanks and artillery pieces".

- The exchange of detailed data about forces and deployments and the right to conduct "sufficient" on-site inspections to provide con-

fidence that agreed provisions are being complied with.

Observing that security in Europe involved not just military but also political, economic and human rights factors, the Nato statement said: "A just and lasting peaceful order in Europe requires that all states enjoy relations of confidence with their own citizens, trust them to make political or economic choices of their own, and allow them to receive information from, and exchange ideas with, citizens of other states."

British sources said that dual-capable aircraft would not be included in the proposed conventional arms negotiations. This would leave out of the reckoning Britain's Tornado aircraft, which is equipped with conventional and nuclear bombs.

Reagan tells Shultz to continue his peace quest

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Reagan yesterday ordered Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, to return to the Middle East to continue his quest for a regional peace plan.

Mr Reagan, in Brussels for the Nato summit, declared that the Americans would "spare no effort in our search for a comprehensive peace settlement". Mr Shultz is to return from the Belgian capital to Britain today for his second meeting in 48 hours with King Hussein of Jordan before flying to Israel.

The future of Mr Shultz's peace mission had been in doubt after visits to five capitals failed to produce any signs of progress.

His meeting with King Hussein in London on Tuesday culminated in a Jordanian statement rejecting key aspects of his proposals, but leaving the door open for further efforts.

Although no indication was given of what the Secretary of State hoped to achieve by meeting the King again so soon, diplomats noted that two versions of the Jordanian statement were circulating.

The first, given to *The Times* and other media by the Jordanian Embassy, stuck to Amman's familiar peace formula. But the second, which was circulating among some Middle East diplomats, left

out key words, giving it an entirely different meaning.

The first version called for an international peace conference, attended by all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. It also urged Washington to co-ordinate with the Soviet Union and the three other permanent Council members.

But the second version left out the three other nations in both cases. If this version is authentic, it would revive an idea floated when Mr Shultz visited the Middle East last year. But cutting out Britain, France and China would not be universally popular.

In Jerusalem, an aide to Mr Yitzhak Shamir said that the Prime Minister was willing to see Mr Shultz.

But Mr Shamir is also ready to meet King Hussein for direct talks. He authorized Mr Shultz to propose this to King Hussein, and Israeli sources assume that he did so on Tuesday. But they have not yet heard the King's response.

The idea forms part of the suggestion that the two superpowers, rather than all five permanent members of the Security Council, should act as the umbrella under which the talks between the Arabs and Israel proceed.

Gephardt visits a former President



Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn with Mr Richard Gephardt, one of the Democrat candidates, talking to the press at the Carter home in Plains, Georgia. Mr Carter did not endorse his guest (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Poll gives Bush 'Super Tuesday' lead

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Vice-President George Bush holds a decisive lead in almost all the 16 states holding primaries on "Super Tuesday" next week, according to a new opinion poll.

Among Democrats, Governor Michael Dukakis and the Rev Jesse Jackson are neck and neck.

Mr Jackson, whose low budget campaign continues to make dazzling advances, had more good news yesterday when he came a strong second in a non-binding presidential primary in Vermont, a state described by one Jackson aide

as "the whitest state in the country". The black population is less than 1 per cent.

The contest provided another decisive win for Mr Dukakis, who took 57 per cent. Mr Jackson won 26 per cent. The other Democrats trailed far behind. On the Republican side, Mr Bush scored 49 per cent and Senator Robert Dole 39 per cent.

A *Washington Post*-ABC News poll found that Mr Bush has a 3-1 lead over Mr Dole, his closest rival, among likely voters in the Republican Super Tuesday primaries. Among Democrats, Senator Albert Gore came third with 20 per

cent and Representative Richard Gephardt followed with 15 per cent.

The poll drew several conclusions: ● Mr Pat Robertson's backing from evangelical fundamentalists has failed to bring enough support to mount a serious challenge to Mr Bush in any of the Super Tuesday states. Mr Robertson came third in the poll.

● Mr Dukakis, the Governor of Massachusetts, who identifies himself with the reforming wing of the Democratic Party, has not alienated conservative Democrats. Among Democrats identifying themselves as

right-wing, he and Mr Gore enjoy equal support.

● Mr Bush is stronger among conservative Republicans than when he ran for the presidency in 1980, suggesting that he has gained from his association with President Reagan. Conservatives back him by almost 3-1 over Mr Dole. Moderates support him over Mr Dole by about 2-1.

The poll shows that Mr Robertson does not have a monopoly of the evangelical vote. Mr Bush, too, commands strong support in that sector.

Mr Robertson, a former evangelical minister, also has a high negative rating—44 per cent.

Falkland exercise 'only battalion size'

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

"Operation Fire Focus", the British military exercise in the Falklands which has aroused a storm of protest in Latin America, is to be much smaller than expected, involving just over 600 men.

The previously secret figure was announced yesterday by Labour's spokesman on the Falklands, Mr George Foulkes, who said he got it from Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence.

The exercise, a test of Britain's ability to reinforce the Falklands garrison rapidly, begins on Monday. When the Ministry of Defence announced it last month it said "substantial" numbers would

be involved. This was taken in Latin America to mean 1,000 or more and prompted fears of a military threat.

The ministry continued to refuse to give the figure yesterday, but said that forces would be of "battalion strength", which could mean about 600 men.

Mr Foulkes said that the ministry had stirred up exaggerated fears in Latin America through an unnecessary secrecy. "The MoD has boomed," he said. "It (the situation) is not nearly as serious as was first thought."

Mr Foulkes previously opposed the timing of the exercise, on the ground that coming in the run-up to elections in Argentina it could weaken President Alfonsín's

fragile democracy and play into the hands of extreme elements in the military.

But, after learning of its small scale, he reversed his position. He said he accepted that it was necessary to test Britain's capability for rapid reinforcement.

"The fault for the misunderstanding lies entirely with the MoD, and they should make a major attempt to repair the diplomatic damage," he said.

Exactly such an effort was under way, British diplomats throughout Latin America were trying to explain that Fire Focus was never meant to be threatening. But relations have already suffered considerable harm. Virtually every Latin American government,

except Chile, has made representations to Britain, either directly or through the Organization of American States.

The Brazilian Government postponed a visit which Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, was to have begun today.

The OAS approved a resolution on Tuesday urging Britain to reconsider the exercise and instead open negotiations with Argentina.

The Times has been approached by Latin American diplomats expressing shock and dismay. One said that it undermined the credibility of Britain's efforts to rebuild confidence through secret, indirect contacts.

Botha ban threatens churches

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

South African churches, extra-parliamentary organizations, trade unions and civil rights groups could be affected by a Bill tabled this week prohibiting the use of foreign funds to finance political activities.

Aid from the European Community, channelled through the Kagiso Trust, the South African Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, might fall into this category.

The Kagiso Trust is run by people closely associated with the United Democratic Front, one of 17 organizations effectively banned last week by Pretoria. The Congress of South African Trade Unions is also believed to get considerable funds abroad, particularly in Scandinavia.

Britain's bilateral five-year £20 million aid programme should not be affected. Most of this money finances university bursaries for blacks in Britain and South Africa and is dispensed by the British Council through a local non-government educational body.

● Doctor convicted: Dr Ivan Toms, 35, has been convicted by a Cape Town magistrate's court for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force. Sentence is expected today or tomorrow.

What is New Scientist and why don't we wear heat-sensitive brassieres?

You won't see it sported on Page Three. And it certainly won't scoop the market in silicon substitutes. Because, as silly as it sounds, the concept is really quite serious.

An inventor in New Jersey has filed a patent for a heat-sensitive brassiere pad that changes colour at different temperatures. When irregular temperature changes occur, the wearer is alerted so that she can immediately seek a doctor's advice.

newscientist It makes sense.



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Afghan peace talks

Cordóvez confident of deal but rules out coalition discussion

Optimism about the rapid conclusion of peace talks on Afghanistan marked the opening day yesterday of what everybody now considers the last round of the indirect negotiations here yesterday.

Senior Diego Cordóvez, the United Nations Under Secretary-General mediating in the talks between Pakistan and the Afghans, yesterday smiled broadly and declared: "We will stay here as long as necessary, or as short a time as necessary. Perhaps it will be signed earlier than you think."

However, he was at pains to rule out the possibility of the negotiations including discussion on the establishment of an interim government for Afghanistan.

Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs who is heading the Islamabad delegation, said on Tuesday that his country sought a comprehensive and not a partial settlement.

He hoped to persuade Senior Cordóvez of the necessity to take up the "second track" negotiations on an interim government "side by side with the first track."

Senior Cordóvez yesterday said that the matter was one entirely for the Afghans alone, adding that he did not think "that there is any linkage between the two things" — between the signing of the Geneva instruments and the establishment of a new government.

He insisted, though, that everyone was agreed on the

necessity of a broad-based government and cited Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, as recently supporting the idea.

Senior Cordóvez warned that to establish a government by an international agreement

Peshawar — Leaders of the seven-party Afghan rebel alliance yesterday condemned the Geneva peace talks as "unacceptable" and "inconclusive" (Edward Gorman writes).

In a communiqué issued here, Maulavi Yunis Khalis, president of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, said: "Any talks in Geneva that fail to include representatives of the Afghan people are doomed. The real parties to the conflict are the Afghan Mujahidin and the Soviet Union, neither of whom are represented." He vowed that the "struggle will continue".

would set unfortunate precedents, and that the Afghans should be trusted to manage their own affairs.

He did acknowledge that the various Afghan parties had difficulties in communicating with each other, and he repeated his willingness to act as a channel of communication between them, if they wanted him. In fact, he said, he had already done so.

While admitting that "civil strife in Kabul is part of the way of life there", Senior Cordóvez was confident that the Afghans would show a sense of responsibility.

He said that he had told Mr

Yunis Khalis, the president of the Mujahidin alliance, that after the Geneva process has ended "the eyes of the world will turn to you".

Senior Cordóvez said that he did not underestimate the difficulties still left to negotiate, but he suggested they had grown much less since his latest round of shuttle diplomacy in the region.

He said: "I travelled eight times between Kabul and Islamabad." As a result, the gap between the two sides on the timeframe for withdrawal of the Soviet troops had narrowed "to what you will admit is surmountable".

The principle of "front-end loading" — that is, having a large proportion of Moscow's soldiers pull out in an early stage of the timeframe — had also been agreed, but the mechanics remained to be worked out.

Senior Cordóvez, who acts as a special representative of the Secretary-General in the talks, explained more about the role that the United Nations would play in monitoring the peace.

He said that he would be reporting to the two sides this week that a special team of UN officials would be going to the two countries shortly to examine the various positions for deployment of United Nations observers.

He described the mission as "an imaginative... new approach, in which the UN will be assisting the implementation of the agreement."

Israel to charge beaten Arabs

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

Two Palestinians, whose beatings by four Israeli soldiers last week shocked the world when the incident was shown on television, are to be charged with stone-throwing. Part of the evidence against them could be the beginning of the television film which showed them being kicked and pummed with stones.

The two were released from detention on the orders of Major-General Amram Mitzna, commander of the Army in the West Bank.

The four soldiers and their commanding officer, who were arrested on the orders of General Mitzna, have since been released and have rejoined their paratroop unit pending further action.

It has been decided that soldiers will serve no more than 40 days a year in the occupied territories. The paratroop unit had been deployed in the West Bank for 10 weeks when the beatings occurred.

Meanwhile, General Mitzna has come under sharp attack by Likud members of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee for what is being seen as his softness in releasing the two Palestinians, arresting the soldiers and then going on Israeli television to condemn what had happened.

The attack was led by Mr David Magen, a close associate of Mr Ariel Sharon, who was Defence Minister during the Lebanon war. At that time General Mitzna reported Mr Sharon for overruling operational orders of field officers in Lebanon, sparking a row for which the general has never been forgiven by the Sharon camp.

With Likud members of the committee rounding on the West Bank commander, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, the Chief of Staff, sprang to his defence. The four soldiers were guilty of a "serious



Israeli troops, who are now to spend no more than 40 days a year in the occupied territories, looking on as one of them beats a Palestinian protester in Ramallah on the West Bank.

deviation" from standing orders, he said, and General Mitzna had taken sound decisions while retaining the support of settlers in the territories.

There was also criticism in the committee of the time it had taken the Army last week to go to the aid of an Arab lynched as a suspected collaborator. General Shomron

said that the nearest army unit was so small that it could have rescued the Arab only by inflicting serious casualties on the crowd by gunfire. As a result of the incident, a special rescue unit had been set up to go into action quickly.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, has urged the public and the media not to blame the Army, but the

Cabinet for what is happening in the territories.

As to Western criticism, he told a passing-out parade of officers, neither Europe nor the United States had the right to tell the Army how to act. "Let them look at their own history in the short and long term before they dare cast aspersions against the state of Israel and its soldiers."

Iraq fires missiles at Iranian holy city

Baghdad (Reuters) — Iraq and Iran kept up their war of the cities yesterday, with more missiles hitting Baghdad and Tehran and an Iraqi attack on Iran's holy city of Qom.

Iraq claims to have fired 21 missiles into the Iranian capital and two more on Qom, 90 miles south-west of Tehran. An Iranian spokesman confirmed that one missile had fallen on Qom, but said there had been no casualties.

The centre of learning for Shia Muslims, Qom has close links with Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

Iranian rockets have killed or wounded several people in Baghdad, including women and children, according to an Iraqi military spokesman. Iran claims to have fired five missiles into Baghdad since an Iraqi air raid on Tehran, last Saturday, but Iraq puts the number of missiles to have hit the capital at four.

The Iraqi spokesman said, after the latest missile had struck Baghdad: "We will continue to pound their nests and punish them."

He said the missile hit a residential area, destroying a number of houses, but for security reasons he did not give a precise location.

Iraq has said the only way to halt the slaughter is for Iran to accept a United Nations-ordered ceasefire.

"It is time for the Tehran regime to put an end to this unjustified war," the Iraqi spokesman said, using the term "unjustified" for the first time since the war started in September, 1980.

Iraq said it used ground-to-ground missiles for the first time on Monday night to hit its enemy's capital. Previous attacks on the city have been carried out by air.

Letter from Cuito Cuanavale

Storm of shells amid the lilies

A pair of ducks flapped industriously across the clean deep waters of the Cuito river, undisturbed by the bright flash of high explosive, the massive cloud of grey smoke and the sharp, deep crack a split second later.

The river moves swiftly through a shallow wide valley of yellow grass and wild lilies. Rising from the valley are low hills, deep green. Heavy blue-grey rain clouds hang low.

The barrage of about a dozen shells in a pattern, the closest falling about half a mile away and seeming to shift closer as they fall on the slope of a ridge on the other side of the river to our left, is grotesque and frightening.

We have been brought from Menongue by helicopter.

The Cuban and Angolan soldiers seen at intervals are waiting, standing or sitting around, and ignore the explosive chopping of the rotor blades. On the side of the long tarmac road lie the hulks of vehicles, shot up by Unita rebel ambushes or Mirage rockets. Deep wide craters in the soft sand dot the roadside.

The Cuban and Angolan troops we met on the road after landing 12 miles from Cuito Cuanavale are frontline men, with five o'clock shadow, sloppier than the neatly-kitted men in the provincial capitals.

Ernesto Garcia Ramirez, aged 18, says he has been in Angola for 16 months, with stretches at the front of two months at a time, and is counting the days until he can be back in Santiago de Cuba with his wife and two-year-old ratón (little rat). But he adds: "We will be here for as long as necessary. We are fighting for a just cause."

In drizzle, I ride first on the back of a Brazilian truck and then in a Soviet armoured personnel carrier, crammed with small arms and ammunition and speeding at about 50 miles an hour on tracks, through a village.

The windows in the houses standing are broken and the

litter of war — tin cans, bits of machinery, empty fuel drums, tyres, wire, cables and the remains of a helicopter crash — strews the ground. The soldiers are also inactive.

It is much the same at the wrecked bridge across the Cuito river, destroyed by Israeli-type pilotless drone aircraft. Some are crossing the rickety rope-and-plank repairs to the other side, while a few more in an old tin boat pull their way past a lorry on its side, half in the water.

Major José João Manuel says the regular morning bombardment from South African G5 artillery had been landing much further back, not far from where our helicopters were parked. They were not firing now, he said, but expected them to start "any moment".

Two minutes later, it did start, but added nothing to the tempo of life in Cuito Cuanavale. No one except the party of journalists and its escort showed any concern.

As the personnel carriers thundered past, grinning Angolan soldiers held up an infant to watch the scurrying party. A few civilians gave desultory attention to the tending of their sorghum patch.

A visit to the military museum in the 17th-century fort overlooking the port of the capital, Luanda, graphically portrays the violence the soldiers await.

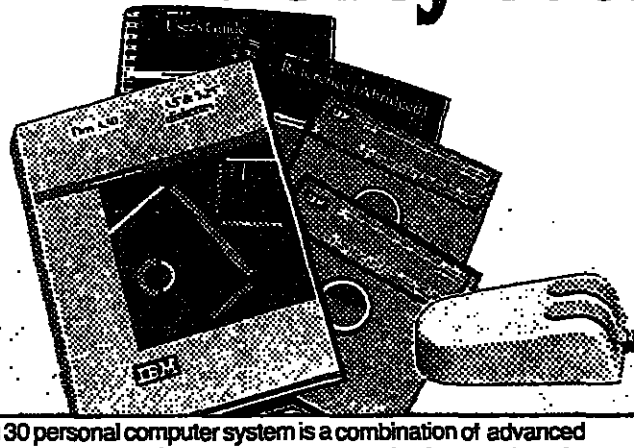
Among the comprehensive collection of recently captured South African equipment are photographs of war victims. A teenage Angolan boy hideously blistered by napalm burns. A white South African pilot with an expressionless mouth, a bristling pilot's moustache, but his eyes charred holes burnt out by an explosion near his face.

The soldiers of Cuito Cuanavale have seen all this at first hand, but the capacity to continue feeling the horror has long gone.

Jan Raath

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SOE of Germ

By Robert Fox

The Ministry of Defence has received a letter from a former German soldier who served in the Wehrmacht during the Second World War. The letter, dated 1987, was sent to the Ministry of Defence by the German soldier, who was then living in the United Kingdom. The letter was a request for help in obtaining a passport, as the German soldier was unable to obtain one from the German authorities. The Ministry of Defence has agreed to help the German soldier in obtaining a passport, and has agreed to pay the costs of the passport and the travel expenses of the German soldier and his family.

Historian

The two German soldiers who were captured by the British during the Second World War, and who were held in the United Kingdom, have been granted British citizenship. The two soldiers, who were captured in 1945, were held in the United Kingdom for several years, and were then released. They were then granted British citizenship, and have been living in the United Kingdom ever since. The two soldiers are now in their 70s, and are both retired. They are both active members of the British Legion, and are both active in the community. They are both very proud of their service to the British Crown, and are both very grateful for the help that they have received from the British government.



The Waldheim controversy

SOE officer 'executed by Germans in Salonika'

By Robert Fisk

The Ministry of Defence has received evidence that another Allied officer — this time an Australian Army captain serving under British command with the Greek partisans — was executed secretly by the Germans in Salonika while Dr Kurt Waldheim was serving there as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in 1944.

Captain "Bunny" Warren was a member of Special Operations Executive's Force 133 when he was captured by German troops on the Greek coast in early 1944 while trying to smuggle a group of escaped prisoners of war across the Adriatic to Italy. He was taken across northern Greece to Salonika where — in the words of his former commanding officer — "the last anyone heard of him was that he was shot".

MP for Oxford until 1974, and a distinguished academic expert on Greek history, has a clear memory of the "quiet, gentle" young officer from Melbourne.

Mr Woodhouse himself operated with the partisans in the hills outside Salonika and it was to Salonika that Warren and the other prisoners were taken. "The last I heard was that he was shot in the vicinity of Salonika, but that the circumstances were uncertain," Mr Woodhouse said. "It was even suggested that he was shot while trying to escape which, of course, was the excuse the Germans often used when they murdered someone. I lost all touch with

Warren after he was taken across northern Greece."

Mr Woodhouse finds it strange that another of his young officers captured in identical circumstances was sent to a prisoner of war camp rather than to a firing squad. "It suggests to me that some Germans felt able to do something to save the lives of prisoners taken in these circumstances and other Germans did not do so," he said.

Neither he nor his men knew of Hitler's order in October, 1942, that captured commandos working with partisans in German-occupied territory should be executed after questioning, even if in uniform when captured.

Mr Woodhouse says that he has never been able to find documentary evidence that Dr Waldheim was involved with the disappearance of Captain Warren, nor does there appear to be any surviving record of Warren being questioned by the Wehrmacht — an interrogation that would have been carried out by officers in Dr Waldheim's intelligence section of General Lohr's Army Group E.

"But Waldheim was there in General Lohr's headquarters at the time," Mr Woodhouse said. "He must have known what was going on. On the Greek island of Cephalonia, for example, thousands of Italian troops who refused to fight for the Wehrmacht after their country's surrender were executed and thrown into mass graves by the Germans."

"Several thousand Italian troops surrendered to me and I looked after them. But Lohr ordered the execution of the Italians on Cephalonia, and I believe Waldheim, who spoke Italian, must have known all about this because there is in existence a document signed by him in the summer of 1944 saying that the clearing up (sic) of south-west Cephalonia has been completed. This, I believe, related to the mass execution of the Italians. It shows that details of what happened there passed through Waldheim's hands."

President's libel action

From A Correspondent, Vienna

President Waldheim yesterday filed a libel suit against a Vienna magazine which published a demand that "suspicion of murder" charges be brought against him for his wartime actions. He asked the Vienna prosecutor's office to begin proceedings against the magazine *Falter* for defaming him in an article which appeared yesterday and demanded that copies of the magazine be removed from news stands.

President Waldheim has also sued another magazine, *Wien*, as well as the West German paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and the president of the World Jewish Congress, Mr Edgar Brodman, for libel or slander concerning his war record.

Falter magazine carried the text of a "private citizens' initiative", signed by 305 Austrians, who filed the complaint with the prosecutor's office yesterday asking that criminal proceedings on suspicion of murder be taken against Dr Waldheim. Herr Walter Oswalt, the publisher of *Falter*, said the charge claimed "that he is also an accomplice in other cases of murder committed by the Nazi regime".

Historian names SS men who may have witnessed Britons' deaths

The two German SS officers who may have witnessed the murder of six British commandos after their interrogation by Dr Kurt Waldheim's German Army intelligence office in 1944 are named in the first English translation from the report by the international commission of historians who investigated the Austrian President's wartime activities (Robert Fisk writes).

Professor Gerald Fleming, the British member of the commission, does not specifically accuse the men of witnessing, or participating in, the execution of the six Britons into whose fate Mrs Thatcher has instituted an inquiry. Indeed, only in a footnote does he identify the two men as heads of the German Field Security Police in Salonika and of the Salonika branch office of

the Sicherheitsdienst (SD), Himmler's secret police.

But it is known that the British prisoners were held by the Field Police during interrogation by officers from Dr Waldheim's unit and then handed over to the SD for *Sonderbehandlung* (special treatment), the euphemism the Germans used for execution. The Field Police officer is named as SS Obersturmführer Konrad Alois Uhr while the SD officer is identified by Mr Fleming as SS Sturmbannführer (Major) Alfred Grün. Herr Uhr is believed to be dead, but Herr Grün vanished after the war. Mr Fleming says that Herr Grün was working at Karlsruhe in 1937 and was transferred to an SD office in Vienna during the war.

Mr Fleming's chapter from the report is to be published in English

for the first time tomorrow in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Copies of the full report have been published in German in Vienna, but the Austrian Government, which apparently holds the copyright on the document, has so far apparently made no effort to print it in English.

In his chapter of the report, Mr Fleming quotes from 11 separate German wartime documents which passed through Dr Waldheim's hands and which, in some cases, bore his handwritten initial "W". These papers include records of an interrogation of three Greeks captured with British commandos, of the six British commandos captured on Alonissos island, and of an interrogation — in a war diary report which includes two handwritten entries by Dr Waldheim himself — for "the destruction of all proceed-

ings relating to Allied military missions and commandos".

Mr Fleming asks if the contents of the "Alonissos" file, destroyed after the war by British authorities, contained records of a second interrogation of the six missing commandos.

"On the inside cover of the 'Alonissos' file there is a one-page text, handwritten in English, not dated, and glazed on — apparently in the United States. It reads: 'Do not film this sheet. Interrogation reports removed because of security classification.' The 'Alonissos' file, was, however, classed neither as 'classified' nor as 'restricted' when it was given to the archival authorities of the Federal Government of Germany."

"There is in the 'Alonissos' file no record of a second interrogation of

Sub-Lieutenant Allan Tuckey and Naval wireless operator Carpenter, or of the commandos Jones, Miller, Rice and Evans. Such a record of a second interrogation would have been signed by an interrogating officer at IC Elecsgruppene (Army group) E in the detention centre at Salonika, and might also have been signed or initialled 'for accuracy of content'. The question is whether such interrogations were removed ...", Mr Fleming notes.

He also speculates on the end of the missing prisoners. "We should be reminded of the fact," he says, "that at Kaisariani in Athens, for example, the bodies of dozens of nameless victims were found, who had been shot ... members of the commando troops were liquidated in secret, which can only be interpreted as a particular aware-

ness of the injustice of the Commando Order" — Hitler's specific instruction to execute Allied commandos.

Mr Fleming quotes from an order issued by General Walter Warlimont on June 4, 1944, that two prisoners, the British radio operator Carpenter and a Greek assistant named Lisgaris, should be handed over to the SD for "special treatment".

By way of contrast to Dr Waldheim's passive behaviour in the face of atrocities, Mr Fleming recalls the story of a courageous German officer holding a lesser rank than the Austrian President, Captain Günther Kleykamp, who informed the Red Cross of the existence of two Allied commandos who he was interrogating, thus saving their lives.

Panama radio station raid



Plainclothes security agents, wielding shotguns, taking refuge in a doorway from stone-throwing demonstrators after ransacking and shutting a Panama City radio station for broadcasting anti-government propaganda. In Tuesday's raid, four people were arrested and at least three injured with birdshot. The station

had defied censors to broadcast news and back the general strike that started on Monday to demand the removal of the country's *de facto* leader, General Manuel Noriega. Señor Carlos Zuniga, the head of the Popular Action Party who owns the station, said that it was totally destroyed.

Neo-Nazis held in raids on 61 towns

Bonn — West German police yesterday arrested several suspected neo-Nazis during raids on homes in 61 towns (John England writes).

The sweep, co-ordinated in Stuttgart, was triggered by suspicions that the "Action Front National Socialists/National Activists", a banned group, had been revived.

Wrong man is executed

Moscow (AFP) — One innocent man was executed and 14 others jailed for the deaths of 33 women before police found the real murderer in Vitebsk, Byelorussia.

The weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, said one of the falsely accused was released only after he lost his sight during six years' imprisonment.

Senegal arrest

Dakar (Reuters) — Senegal police arrested another opposition leader, Mr Abdoulaye Bathily, a supporter of the defeated presidential candidate, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, after post-election violence.

Plane arrested

Bogota (AFP) — Colombia Air Force planes forced down, on an airfield owned by an alleged drug trafficker, Pablo Escobar Gaviria, a plane stolen from the Catam military air base.

Soviet crash

Moscow (Reuters) — Twenty people died and 13 were critically injured when a Soviet passenger plane crashed in the West Siberian oil city of Surgut.

Sikh killings

Amritsar (Reuters) — Sikh extremists killed at least nine people in Punjab but Gurcharan Singh, one of their leaders, was killed by security forces.

Teaching trip

Tokyo (AFP) — Japan plans to invite more than 1,400 English speakers from Britain, the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland to teach.

Suharto again

Jakarta (AFP) — President Suharto has been nominated as sole candidate for another five-year term of office.

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ABBNEY NATIONAL

Opposition protesters enforce eve-of-poll general strike in Bangladesh

Bombings add to Dhaka violence

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Hundreds of bomb blasts shook the shantytowns of Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital, yesterday as government and opposition supporters clashed in election-eve violence during a general strike.

The country goes to the polls today to elect a new Parliament, the fourth in 16 years of political turbulence since independence, in a contest that is being boycotted by the main opposition parties.

Bands of up to 100 men fought with political rivals in Dhaka yesterday as the strike disrupted life in 17 cities, paralysing transport and shutting markets. Rickshaw drivers who tried to defy the stoppage were beaten up and had their vehicles burnt.

The authorities said that the Army had been deployed in 460 district towns, while more than 300,000 police and paramilitary forces were guarding the 22,302 polling stations in an attempt to prevent attacks and sabotage by opposition activists and extremist groups.

The 36-hour strike had been called by the eight-party alliance dominated by the left-wing Awami League, a seven-party grouping led by the right-wing Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami.

More than 30 people were injured as anti-poll protesters set off bombs in Dhaka and the southern port of Chittagong during the stoppage — the 25th strike since the opposition launched a civil disobedience campaign last November to unseat the six-year-old regime of President Ershad, the former army chief.

Earlier, the Government had shown it was in no mood for a confrontation with the opposition by declaring public holidays yesterday and today, and shut down offices, banks, schools and colleges. Police were ordered to avoid clashes.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the leader of the Awami League, said yesterday that an election without the opposition would precipitate a public outcry, so threatening the country's political stability. She said: "I think General Ershad is making a serious mistake. He does not appreciate the disaster approaching the country."

Both Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khalida Zia, the Nationalist Party chairman, are boycotting the election because they allege that the Government will rig the poll to ensure a resounding victory for the ruling Jatiyo Party.

The two leaders have made a fresh appeal for a national boycott of the election.

President Ershad decided to call the election last December at the height of civil unrest, which had led him to declare a state of emergency.

A total of 955 candidates are contesting 281 seats for the 300-member chamber. Eighteen government candidates, including five ministers, have been returned unopposed. The election in one constituency was postponed after a candidate was gunned down

Subsistence farmers cling to politics of survival

From Our Correspondent Dhaka

For Mr Karim Mollah, aged 46, a subsistence farmer pushing a wooden plough through a soggy rice paddy in eastern Bangladesh, there is only one issue in the controversial general election today.

"The party I want to vote for is the one which is going to save me and my six children from misery," he said, as he paused to wipe the sweat from his forehead.

The call from the main opposition parties for a boycott of today's parliamentary election has not reached Mr Mollah's village, 55 miles from Dhaka, the capital. News of the opposition campaign has been just a whisper on state-controlled radio, while a cautious press studiously ignores all anti-election propaganda.

Mr Mollah disclosed that he would vote for the "plough" (the symbol of the ruling Jatiyo party) because President Ershad had promised, dur-

ing a visit to the local town, to give a new irrigation pump to his village. "I'll get more water to grow rice in the dry winter," Mr Mollah said. "I'm praying to Allah that, with that pump, my life will change for the better."

For the landless and marginal farmers who make up more than 40 per cent of the estimated 50 million voters, it seems that the fundamental question of survival overshadows the issues that the opposition parties have tried to inject into the campaign. The opposition has continually charged that the President, a former army chief, is too allied with the military to produce true democracy and that his party would unleash Western-style capitalism, privatising large, state-owned corporations.

But there is little sign that the four-month anti-government campaign by the opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khalida Zia, is carrying much weight in the villages where 85 per cent of the 103 million Bangladeshis live.

Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the Awami League and an eight-party alliance, and Begum Zia, the chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party which heads a seven-party grouping, have stayed out of the election, claiming that the vote would be rigged to favour the Government with a two-thirds majority in the next Parliament.

The opposition leaders — who draw their popularity from the charisma of two assassinated past presidents, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina's father, and Begum Zia's husband, General Ziaur Rahman — have failed to forge a united front because of ideological differences and personality clashes.

Sheikh Hasina told members of her left-of-centre alliance: "There can be unity if Begum Zia accepts that the Awami League is the front-runner in the campaign for democracy."

But the chances of this hope becoming reality are remote, given

Begum Zia's personal political ambitions and her right-wing and Islamic policies.

Political observers and Western diplomats in Dhaka believe that President Ershad, who regularly visits remote villages to check on the bureaucracy, will thrive on opposition disunity.

A schoolteacher in central Bangladesh said that he "would like a change" but was scared that the opposition was too divided to offer a stable alternative.

In the big cities, the opposition has staged protests in which about 50 people have died since early November. The Government reacted by declaring a state of emergency, dissolving Parliament and calling for fresh elections.

Mr Mollah said he had heard about the protests, but was more worried about the weather, fertilizers and floods — all of which decide how much he will harvest from his one-acre plot.

Abduction threat 'to inject boy with Aids'

From Our Correspondent Sydney

A 58-year-old businessman, his medical courier wife, and a teenage youth appeared in court yesterday accused of a bizarre kidnap plot involving threats to inject Aids-contaminated blood into the son of a Sydney millionaire.

Police claim that they planned to inject their victims with the infected blood unless the parents paid a \$A500,000 (\$203,000) ransom.

Acting on a tip-off, detectives had kept the three under surveillance and photographed them meeting at a Sydney hotel when phials of blood and other medical items were handed over by the wife.

According to police, they intended to snatch the 15-year-old boy yesterday as he walked to school.

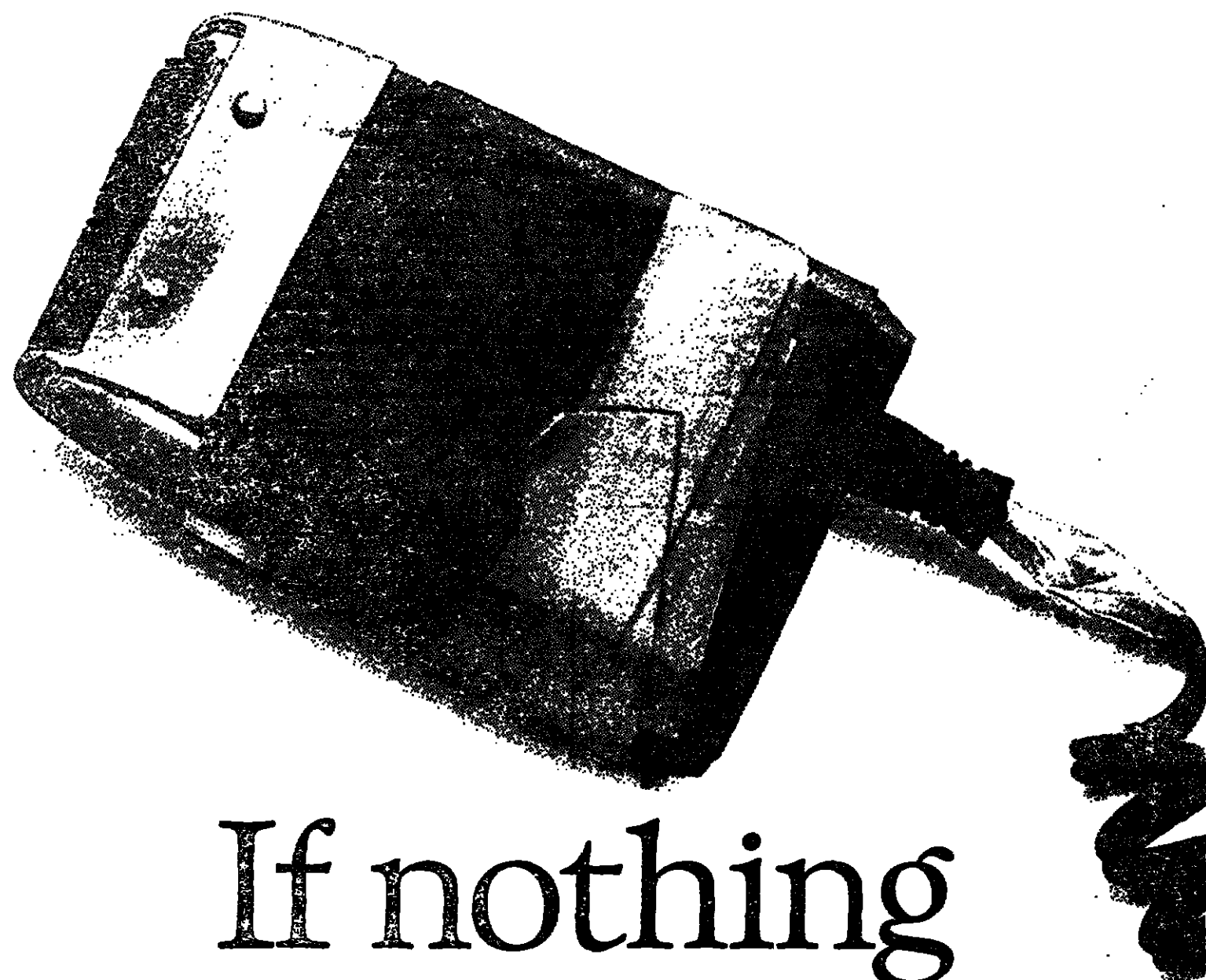
But in a series of co-ordinated pre-dawn raids detectives arrested Reginald Connolly at a coastal caravan park 50 miles from Sydney, his wife Rosita, aged 40, at their home in the city, and Michael Ratcliffe, aged 18.

Later Mr Connolly appeared in court at Graham, and his wife and Mr Ratcliffe in the Sydney Central Court. All were charged with conspiracy to kidnap. Detective Norman Hazzard said the blood was being tested.

Mr Connolly was remanded in custody for a week. His wife was granted bail of \$A40,000 and Mr Ratcliffe bail of \$A1,000. Mrs Connolly was unable to raise the money and was taken to prison.



An anti-poll protester standing defiantly on a rickshaw after it was overturned in Dhaka yesterday to enforce the strike.



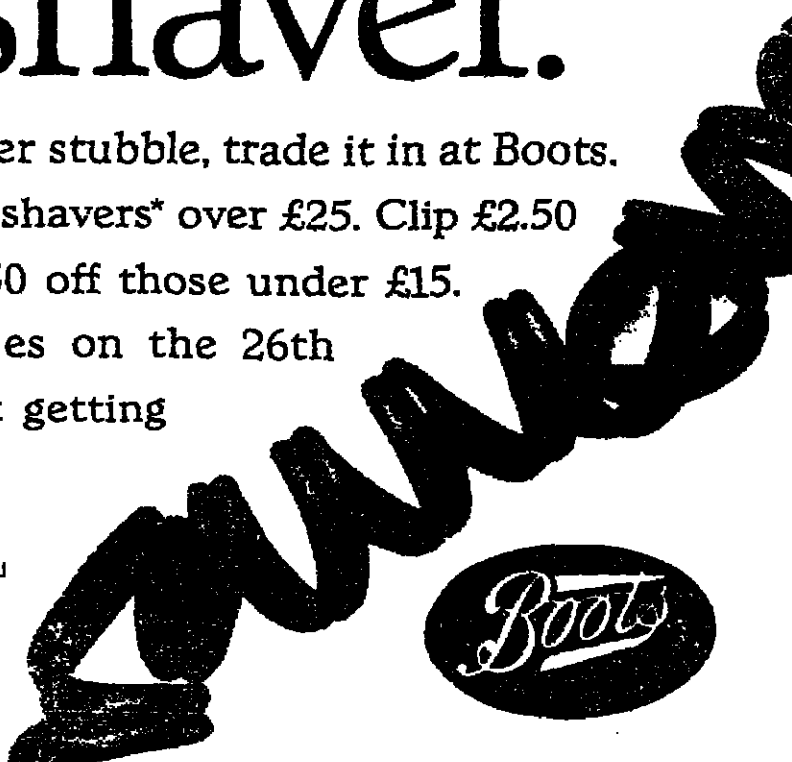
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Lord Justice Wilson
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Lord Justice X

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PROPERTY
MOVING

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Challenging council's eviction move

Avon County Council v Buscott and Others
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Taylor
[Judgment March 2]

A local authority's decision to bring eviction proceedings under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court could not be challenged during those proceedings on the ground that it was unreasonable and that beyond the authority's powers. Any such challenge could only be made in separate proceedings for judicial review under Order 53.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Sarah Buscott, Paul Richard, Daria Bartlett, Chris Newman, Rachel Page, Terence C. Easton, Karen Golley, Craig Sergeant and Richard Shapero from Mr Justice Taylor's decision to grant an order for possession of land at the rear of 113, the premises known as the 'benders' to the appellants, Mr David Mole for Avon.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the council sought an order for possession, under the summary procedure provided by Order 113, of land on which the appellants were living in "benders" as trespassers.

The appellants had not contended that they were not trespassers or that the council was not entitled to possession if it was entitled to come to the court to seek that order. They asserted that as they were gypsies the council was in breach of its statutory duty to provide adequate caravan sites for gypsy accommodation within its area and that in such circumstances it was unreasonable to seek orders for possession. The Master of the Rolls (see *Associated Provincial Picture Houses v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223) and so was beyond the powers of the council.

The appellants had sought an adjournment to prove that the council had acted unreasonably in seeking possession. The Master of the Rolls said that it was in breach of its statutory duty and the appellants were gypsies. It re-

sisted the adjournment on the ground that its decision to seek a possession order could not be questioned in proceedings under Order 113.

The issue was therefore whether the appellants could do so or whether they should only do so by way of judicial review.

His Lordship referred to *Waverley BC v Wilson* (1988) 1 WLR 246 in which Mr Justice Scott had held that the decision to seek possession was not to be challenged by judicial review or not at all. His Lordship agreed with that conclusion.

Since *O'Reilly v Mackman* (1983) 2 AC 237 and *Cockle v Thorne DC* (1983) 2 AC 286 it was the general rule that it was an abuse of the process of the court for a person to seek to establish that a decision of a public authority infringed public law rights other than by way of judicial review.

Wandsworth LBC v Winder (1985) AC 461 was an exception to that rule. His Lordship referred to the reasoning of Lord Fraser (at pp 507, 509).

In his Lordship's view the present case was fundamentally different from *Winder*. Mr Winder had asserted a true defence on the merits. In the present case the appellants did not allege any right to occupy the land and did not deny that they were liable to eviction. They did not suggest any defence on the merits. They were asserting that the council was not entitled to enforce its rights and seek an eviction order. In his Lordship's judgment they should proceed by way of an application for judicial review thus ensuring that the matter was dealt with speedily and in a manner which gave the council the protection enshrined in the judicial review procedure.

In his Lordship's judgment the judge had been correct in refusing the adjournment to enable the appellants to raise such matters in the eviction proceedings. He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Parker delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: Phillips & Co, Bath; Mr Basil D. Smith, Bristol.

Fiancee's rights not same as wife's

Mossop v Mossop
Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Frederick Lawton
[Judgment February 24]

Where an agreement to marry was terminated, no claim could be made by virtue of section 2(1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 for an order to be made, in accordance with section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, in relation to property in which either or both parties had had a beneficial interest while the agreement was in force.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Gail Mary Mossop, from Mr Justice Ewbank who on June 12, 1987, dismissed her appeal against the order of Mr John Merrick, who sitting as a deputy registrar on October 2, 1985, struck out the applicant's summons for, *inter alia*, an order requiring the respondent, Roger Mossop, to transfer to her part of his interest in a property at North Mundham, Chichester, West Sussex, on the ground that it disclosed no cause of action.

Section 2(1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 provides: "Where an agreement to marry is terminated, any rule of law relating to the rights of husbands and wives in relation to property..."

Explained by section 37 of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970, shall apply, in relation to any property in which either or both of the parties to the agreement had a beneficial interest while the agreement was in force, as it applies in relation to property in which a husband or wife has a beneficial interest.

Mr Charles Taylor for the applicant; Miss Elizabeth Brann for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that for the purposes of the judgment his Lordship would assume that the facts as depicted by the applicant were true, although it was right to say that a number were highly disputed.

The applicant asserted that in April 1979 she and the respondent became engaged and that from 1979 to 1983 they lived together. They lived in a house that was in the sole name of the respondent. The applicant did not provide any of the purchase price.

By her originating summons the applicant asked for an order (i) for the transfer to her of such part of the respondent's interest in the house as might be just, and (ii) for the house to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between them or otherwise as might be just.

The submission was that section 2(1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 in effect put engaged couples on a par with married couples in relation to property, including, in particular, the right now contained in section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 relating to property adjustment orders in connection with divorce, judicial separation and nullity proceedings.

It was common ground that there was no reported decision in which the effect of section 2 of the 1970 Act had been considered. But in *Bernard v Josephs*

(1982) Ch 391, 403 Lord Justice Griffiths had treated the case now put as at least arguable. His Lordship was not satisfied that there was any substance in the submission. Section 2(1) might be difficult to construe and its effect might be somewhat limited, nevertheless, it seemed to have a perfectly sensible meaning.

Any rule of law relating to the rights of husbands and wives in relation to property would include, among others the rule that, in the case of a money or property transfer to a wife by a husband, there was a presumption of advancement and that no resulting trust would arise.

Other possible applications might arise from the rules set out in *Pettin v Pettin* (1970) AC 777, 813. But, certainly in relation to the presumption of advancement and to the rule expressly referred to, namely that contained in section 37 of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970 which concerned contributions by a spouse for the improvement of property, there was subject matter on which section 2(1) could bite.

Even assuming, without decid-

ing, that a rule of law relating to rights of husbands and wives in relation to property could include such a rule as was found in section 24 of the 1973 Act, the prefatory words of section 24—"On granting a decree of divorce... nullity of marriage or... judicial separation"—constituted the existence of one of those decrees a condition precedent to the court's exercise of the discretionary powers contained in section 24.

By the very nature of things, the existence of such a decree could not arise in the case of engaged couples.

There was nothing in the relevant reports of the Law Commission that, in enacting the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 or the precursor of section 24 of the 1973 Act, Parliament intended to equate in relation to property the position of an engaged couple with that of husband and wife in all respects.

Lord Justice Fox agreed and Sir Frederick Lawton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: George Ide, Phillips & Co, Chichester; Thomas Eggar & Son, Chichester.

Risks of counsel seeing judge in private

Regina v Harper-Taylor
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and Mr Justice Fox
[Judgment February 19]

The Court of Appeal made some observations on the practice of meeting a judge in his private room.

Their Lordships allowed appeals by Allen Harper-Taylor and Leslie Marten Bakker against their convictions on November 19, 1986 after a retrial at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Tudor Price, Common Sergeant of the City of London, and a jury) of attempted murder, on which they were each sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

Mrs Margaret Puxon, QC and Mr Philip Engelman, Assisted by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant Harper-Taylor; Mr Christopher Barnett, QC and Mr Michael Gledhill, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant Bakker; Miss Ann Currow, QC and Mr John Bevan for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said a first principle of criminal law was that justice was done in public, for all to see and hear. By that standard, a meeting in the judge's room was anomalous in the essence, and indeed the purpose, being that neither the defendant nor the

jury nor the public were there to hear what was going on.

Undeniably, there were circumstances where the public must be excluded. Equally, the judge must not always be kept in court throughout. The withdrawal of the proceedings into private, without even the defendant being there, was another matter.

It was true, as stated in *R v Turner* (1970) 2 QB 321, 326, that there must be freedom of access between counsel and the judge when there were matters calling for communications or discussions of such a nature that counsel could not in the interests of his client mention them in open court.

Criminal trials were so various that a list of situations where an approach to the judge was permissible would only mislead; but it had to be clear that communications should never take place unless there was no alternative.

Apart from the question of principle, seeing the judge in private created risks of more than one kind. The need to solve an immediate practical problem might combine with the more relaxed atmosphere of the private room to blur the formal outlines of the trial.

Again, if the object of withdrawing the case from open court was to maintain a degree of confidence, as it plainly was,

there was room for misunderstanding about how far the confidence was to extend; and, in particular, there was a risk that counsel and solicitors for the other parties might hear something said to the judge which they would rather not hear, putting them into a state of conflict between their duties to their clients, and their obligation to maintain the confidentiality of the private room.

The absence of the defendant was also a potential source of trouble. He had to learn what the judge had said at second hand, and might afterwards complain (rightly or no) that he was not given an accurate account.

Equally, he could not hear what his counsel had said to the judge, and hence could not intervene to correct a misstatement or an excess of authority; a factor which might not only be a source of unfairness to the defendant, but which might also deprive the prosecution of the opportunity to contend that admissions made in open court in the presence of the client and not repudiated by him might be taken to have been made with his authority. *R v Turner* (Bryan) (1975) 61 Cr App R 67.

Each of those risks had materialized in the present case. Further, their Lordships were quite satisfied that, viewing the history of the matter as a whole, the course of events was such that the verdict could not be regarded as safe.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Inference insufficient for court

Regina v Merseydase Passenger Transport Authority and Another, Ex parte Crossville Motor Services Ltd and Another

A strong but not irresistible inference that a passenger transport authority or passenger transport executive, in setting a maximum scale of fares to be charged on subsidized bus services, was in breach of its duty, under section 9A(6) of the Transport Act (inserted by section 57(2) of the Transport Act 1985) and section 92(1) of the 1985 Act, so as to conduct itself as not to inhibit competition between persons providing or seeking to provide public passenger transport in its area, was not sufficient to justify the court exercising its discretion to grant relief on an application for judicial review of the decision to fix the scale.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stocker) so stated on February 10, dismissing an appeal by Crossville Motor Services Ltd and North Western Road Car Company Ltd from the dismissal by Mr Justice Mann (*The Times* April 4, 1987) of their application for judicial review of the Merseydase Passenger Transport Authority and/or the Merseydase Passenger Transport Exec-

Scots Law Report

Majority required for conviction

Glen and Another v HM Advocate
Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross), Lord McDonald and Lord Hunter
[Opinion January 8]

In directing a Scottish jury of 15 on majority verdicts, the trial judge should emphasize that no verdict of guilty could be returned unless at least eight of its members voted for conviction. Unless that condition was satisfied, the jury's verdict had to be one of acquittal. It was therefore unnecessary to direct as to the majority necessary for a verdict of acquittal.

The High Court of Justiciary, in its appellate capacity, so held in allowing two appeals against convictions at the High Court in Glasgow (Lord Dunpark and a jury) under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Mr Derek Batchelor for the first appellant Mr John Young for the second appellant the Lord Advocate (Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, QC) and Mr Alastair Kinroy for the Crown.

The LORD JUSTICE-CLERK, giving the opinion of the court, said that the appellants appealed against convictions on four charges in respect of which they had been convicted by a majority verdict.

Their common ground of appeal was that the trial judge had misdirected the jury in charging it that while there were three verdicts open to it and that it could return a verdict unanimously or by a majority, it could only return a verdict by a majority at least eight of its members favoured that verdict. As a result of that misdirection, the appellants argued, there had been a miscarriage of justice.

In his charge, the trial judge had told the jury that it might return a verdict of guilty, not guilty or not proven. Subsequently, he said: "Any verdicts you return need not necessarily be unanimous. It may be by a majority but it is particularly important that if it is a guilty verdict you are going to return, then of course the minimum majority of 15 is eight so there must be at least eight of you in favour of any verdict you return."

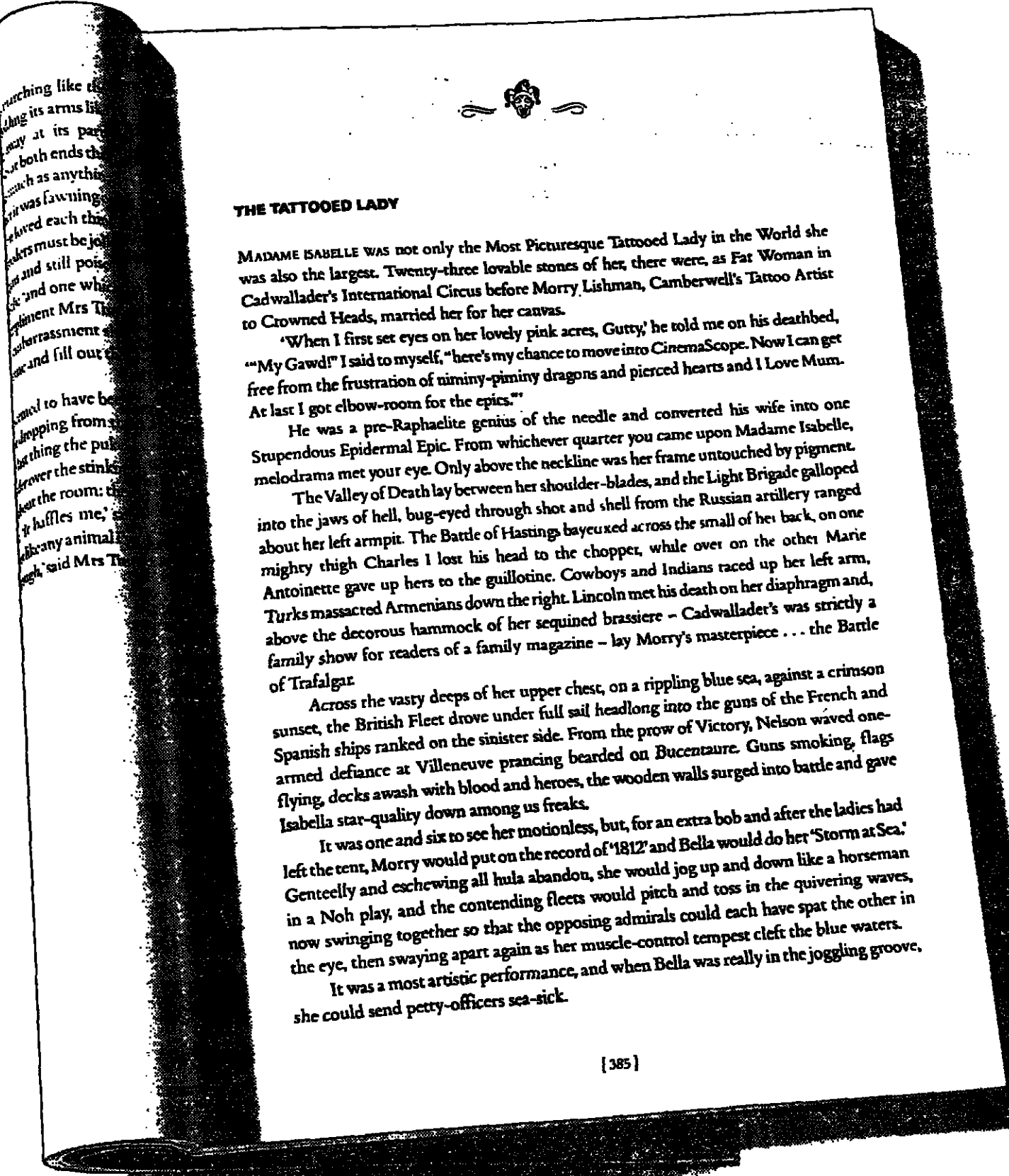
When he had completed his charge, but before the jury returned to consider its verdict, the trial judge was asked by the Advocate-Depute to clarify whether he had directed that there must be eight members of the jury in favour of any verdict before it could be returned by majority.

The trial judge confirmed that that was so. The jury had thereafter returned and returned to give the majority verdicts for conviction against which the appellants now appealed.

The direction given by the trial judge fell to be contrasted with the practice described in *McPhelim v HM Advocate* (1960 JC 17), and the description of JC 17, and the direction of the proper course to be followed in charging juries as to majority verdicts given by the Lord Justice-General in *Affleck v HM Advocate* (1987 SCCR 150).

In the opinion of the court, the direction given to the jury that at least eight of its members must favour any verdict it

When did you last have a laugh on the motorway?



THE TATTOOED LADY

MADAME ISABELLE was not only the Most Picturesque Tattooed Lady in the World she was also the largest. Twenty-three lovable stones of her, there were, as Far Woman in Cadwallader's International Circus before Morry Lishman, Camberwell's Tattoo Artist to Crowned Heads, married her for her canvas.

"When I first set eyes on her lovely pink acres, Gutty," he told me on his deathbed, "My Gawd! I said to myself, 'here's my chance to move into CinemaScope. Now I can get free from the frustration of niminy-piminy dragons and pierced hearts and I Love Mum. At last I got elbow-room for the epic.'"

He was a pre-Raphaelite genius of the needle and converted his wife into one Stupendous Epidermal Epic. From whichever quarter you came upon Madame Isabelle, melodrama met your eye. Only above the neckline was her frame untouched by pigment.

The Valley of Death lay between her shoulder-blades, and the Light Brigade galloped into the jaws of hell, bug-eyed through shot and shell from the Russian artillery ranged about her left armpit. The Battle of Hastings bayeuxed across the small of her back, on one mighty thigh Charles I lost his head to the chopper, while over on the other Marie Antoinette gave up hers to the guillotine. Cowboys and Indians raced up her left arm, Turks massacred Armenians down the right. Lincoln met his death on her diaphragm and, above the decorous hammock of her sequined brassiere - Cadwallader's was strictly a family show for readers of a family magazine - lay Morry's masterpiece... the Barle of Trafalgar.

Across the vasty deeps of her upper chest, on a rippling blue sea, against a crimson sunset, the British Fleet drove under full sail heading into the guns of the French and Spanish ships ranked on the sinister side. From the prow of Victory, Nelson waved one-armed defiance at Villeneuve prancing bearded on Bucentaure. Guns smoking, flags flying, decks awash with blood and heroes, the wooden walls surged into battle and gave Isabelle star-quality down among us freaks.

It was one and six to see her motionless, but, for an extra bob and after the ladies had left the tent, Morry would put on the record of '1812' and Bella would do her "Storm at Sea." Gently and eschewing all hula abandon, she would jog up and down like a horseman in a Noh play, and the contending fleets would pitch and toss in the quivering waves, now swinging together so that the opposing admirals could each have spat the other in the eye, then swaying apart again as her muscle-control tempest cleft the blue waters.

It was a most artistic performance, and when Bella was really in the jogging groove, she could send petty-officers sea-sick.

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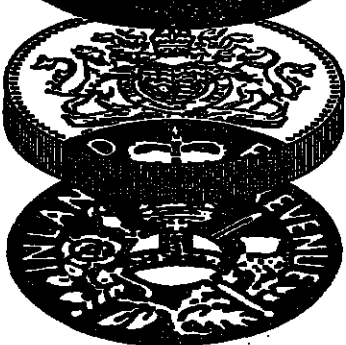
Now, try reading that in your favourite contraflow on the motorway.

INTERCITY

SPECTRUM

'It was like a state mugging'

THE HIDDEN
POWERS OF
THE TAXMAN



Victims of the new-style aggressive methods of the Inland Revenue can spend years and a small fortune proving their innocence — and that is if they are lucky. William Greaves and Vivien Goldsmith report on cases where the tax assessors and tax collectors got their lines crossed, and the taxpayer got the fright of his life

When Malcolm Arthur, a businessman and part-time professional singer, arrived home in north London one evening last August, he found a hand-delivered letter from the Inland Revenue. He opened it and went cold. A tax inspector and bailiff had been round while he was out to collect £146,70 "unpaid tax"; if it were not paid immediately his belongings would be distrained or goods seized to the value of the bill.

"It would have been bad enough anyway, but I did not even owe the money," says Arthur. "I had actually received a cheque for almost £1,900 from the tax office two weeks earlier because I had paid too much. The last thing I expected was an Inland Revenue demand to stand and deliver."

His accountant, Garth Pedlar, made immediate inquiries, found out that there had been a communication breakdown between the tax assessors and the tax collectors and elicited an apology. If Arthur had not just received that cheque he would not have known that the assessors had already found in his favour.

"I have had three or four cases of this kind in the last 12 months," says Pedlar. "In one instance the tax inspector agreed to change an assessment he had made. A month later the tax collector started formal proceedings to seize goods to the value of the bill my client no longer owed. It took almost a week to get him to withdraw them."

Birmingham property landlord John Swani would have been delighted with such a speedy resolution

of his problems. During the last seven years he has paid £40,000 on accountants' and lawyers' fees and still owes another £20,000 in a so-far unavailing attempt to clear his name of a Revenue demand for £300,000 in unpaid tax and a further £600,000 in penalties and interest going back more than 20 years.

"You can't claim your costs so you feel obliged to do a deal with the Revenue, but that would be an admission of guilt," says Swani, whose properties house about 60 Birmingham University students. "There is no way of standing up against the Revenue," he says. "The system is geared against the guilty person. But I have to try and prove my innocence."

"I know that small landlords are often suspected of being less than honest, but I have always declared all my income and proper expenses — I am a very good landlord."

Swani's problems began when his bank made a mistake and reported that he had repaid £10,000 more of a loan than he actually had. The bank later corrected the error, but by that time the Inland Revenue had got him in its sights. "I co-operated fully," says Swani, "but every time we were near a settlement, they found something else. Over all those 20 years, my accountant could only find an extra £800 of tax liability, but they would not settle for less than £100,000."

Both Malcolm Arthur and John Swani fell under the taxman's gaze by chance. If, however, they had been road hauliers, small hotel proprietors or travel agents they could rightly blame their choice of

occupation for attracting special attention. Those are just three types of business for which the Revenue keeps "models" — detailed statistics giving at-a-glance norms for acceptable profit levels. The business of an average travel agent, for instance, is made up of 54.5 per cent inclusive tours, producing a commission of 7.9 per cent, and 31.1 per cent air ticket sales, with 8.3 per cent commission. A specialist firm might produce very different figures — but will have to explain itself in detail to the Revenue.

One tax inspector recalls the pub which was taken to task for its high wastage rate. In that case the publican knew what had caused the departure from the norm: a greater than average distance between the beer pumps and the cellars. If he had not known, his figures would not have been believed.

One phrase which certainly never appears in any Revenue "model" is, "I just do it for the love of it". A leading London accountant recalls the case of the retired racehorse trainer who wanted to put something back into racing. He accepted an honorary position with a racing association, attending committee meetings and race meetings, and the £8,000 a year he received did not quite cover his expenses.

"The Revenue claimed he was concealing a source of income," said the accountant. "The case got as far as being listed for a hearing before the general commissioners before it was settled. The man sadly gave up the post — it was just not worth the hassle."



Happy on a low income until the taxman came along: London taxi driver Anthony Coy with his daughter Mary and wife Rula

Anthony Coy is a London taxi driver who is happy with the simple life. He neither smokes nor drinks, never eats out, takes no holidays — he does not even own a passport — and the family home has no central heating and no double glazing. His television set is black and white and he has no video. Coy, aged 58, a former apprentice shoemaker, mends the household shoes, and one of his daughters cuts the family's hair.

Such a frugal existence would not be to every body's liking — and it certainly did not appeal to the Inland Revenue. Why, it demanded, did Coy not work harder? How could he possibly survive on his daily takings of £24 or £25? Did he not know that, according to the Family Expenditure Survey, published by the Department of Employment, he "should" have been spending £11 a week more in the year to April 1984, and £5.50 a week more the next year?

TAXING QUESTIONS OF LIFESTYLE

Unprepared to accept that Coy was perfectly happy and saw no reason to work any harder, tax inspectors interrogated him six times, probed every detail of his private life and even demanded to know what he had given his wife for a birthday present. "It was like a state mugging," Coy says.

And then the taxmen turned their attention to what profits they thought he ought to have made. They looked at his spending on diesel, consulted their taxi driver statistics, and concluded that, on the basis of 25.5 miles to the gallon, fare-paying passengers accounting for 55 per cent of his mileage, together with 15 per cent tips, he must have earned £1,000 more than the £6,579 he admitted to for the year ended April 1985.

Not so, said Coy. He liked to work between 6pm and midnight and to cruise in search of work rather than wait at a rank, so his

paid-for miles amounted to no more than 53 per cent. "There isn't the volume of work at night, especially in the winter months," he says. "People don't tend to come into town in the latter part of the evening, so there are many empty return journeys."

Coy took his arguments to the general commissioners and then to the High Court in 1986. It cost him £350 but he could not prove his innocence — so he lost.

It was lifestyle, too, which trapped John Wood, a former builder and central heating engineer, of Bradford — but his problem was that he was living too well. The figures he declared for his firm, claimed the Revenue, could not possibly have provided him with a Mercedes 380SE and a flat in Blackpool. And it was quite right. Over a number of years, Wood had won about £60,000 in various casinos — and had a Press

report of his being banned from one Bradford casino for winning too much to prove his case.

Wood spent seven years and £20,000 in professional fees disputing a claim for £120,000 in unpaid tax and a further £200,000 in penalties and interest. "They never found anything wrong with my accounts but nor would they admit they were wrong," he says. "I challenged them to take me to court but they wouldn't. Eventually, the cost and the worry forced me out of business."

In July last year the tax office agreed to settle — for a one-off payment of £8,000.

TOMORROW

The taxman goeth: why more and more of the gamekeepers are turning poacher

CHARITY COMMISSION

The Biochemical Society

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: 253894 A/1 LA at

St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today.

STUDY TOUR OF JAPAN - ESSAY CONTEST 1988

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan invites entries for an Essay Contest from which a certain number of participants will be selected for a two week Study Tour to Japan. The contest is open to all students of Japanese in the U.K. (or EC countries) and Japan. The object of the Study Tour is to promote understanding and strengthen ties between Japan and Europe. The tour will offer the opportunity of studying the political, social and cultural aspects of Japan at first hand.

THEME: My impressions of Japan. In the essay you should consider what you expect of Japan in terms of the relations between the U.K. (or EC countries) and Japan.

LANGUAGE: English, French, German or Spanish.

LENGTH: 2,000 - 3,000 words together with a brief summary (not more than one page). Must be typewritten.

ESSAYS NOT ACCEPTABLE: Those already written or published, either previously by the entrant or by any other person.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: a) Open to nationals of EC countries and people connected with EC organizations who are presently resident in EC countries. b) Participants must be aged between 18 and 34 on 1st April 1988. c) Previous visitors to Japan not eligible. d) From page to include: Full name, date of birth, sex, nationality, address and telephone numbers (home and office or place of education), occupation and place of employment, how you heard of the Contest and whether you have entered previously and preferred date for the visit. (1) 28/August - 11/September. (2) 11/September - 25/September. (3) 25/September - 8/October 1988. e) Entries are non-refundable. f) Essays will be accepted between 10 March and 10 April 1988. g) Three copies of everything including the summary.

SELECTION: Selection will be on the basis of the essay and an interview.

ESSAY TO BE SENT TO: Mr. K. Nakamura, Essay Contest, Japan Information Centre, (Embassy of Japan), 9 Grosvenor Square, London W1X 9LB. Tel. 493-6030 (ext. 34).

A bid for fairness...and immortality?

A reader has written complaining about the manner in which bidding was conducted at Sotheby's ceramics sale last week. Two 16th century Venetian painted maiolica jars were on offer, and bidding was proceeding in £2,000 units. "The bidding reached £26,000. I bid £27,000 which the auctioneer refused to accept, insisting that I bid £28,000. But I declined and the lot was knocked down for £26,000."

At issue is the erratic bidding procedure which auctioneers operate. "In principle, it goes up in units of 10 per cent," explained Guy Jennings of Christie's. "But it is slightly flexible, no hard and fast rules. One's got to get the thing moving."

The aggrieved bidder is a dealer, Cyril Humphris, and he believes the auctioneer has let down the vendor. The buyer, he says, was determined to acquire the goods, and would have paid much more than £26,000. Had the auctioneer accepted his £1,000 bid, momentum might have



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

been maintained: "The vendor could arguably claim to have lost at least £2,000."

Nowadays, the auction houses are courting the general public as never before, and they surely should clarify how bidding will proceed. Common practice on the hammer end of the scale is for lots costing between £100 and £200 to jump in units of £10. When the bidding surpasses £200, it

increases in units of £20, and so on. No inkling of the likely pattern is given either in the catalogue, or by the auctioneer before the sale.

Christie's and Sotheby's protect themselves by means of catalogue disclaimers. "Christie's has the right at its absolute discretion to refuse any bid, to advance the bidding as it may decide," says one, while the other says: "We reserve the right to reject any bid."

Increments take on giant proportions at blockbuster sales. When Christie's sold Van Gogh's "Sunflowers", they proceeded in units of £500,000; when Sotheby's sold his "Irises", it was in hops of \$1 million. But again the inconsistency: sometimes, when bidding lags, they will accept a proportional offer; sometimes they refuse.

Guy Jennings believes that with pricey paintings, new buyers would never bid unadvised. What about everyone else operating further down the price scale?

While London has been busy feting David Bomberg with no fewer than four exhibitions, the Germans are virtually sanctifying their great 20th century conceptual artist, Joseph Beuys, who died in 1986. A huge exhibition, insured at £23.2 million, opened last week at the Martin Gropius Museum in West Berlin, to the accompaniment of two "happenings" — one artist screaming while the other abseiled down to the main hall. Plans for a permanent museum of his work at Moyland Castle, near Kleve, are under way.

But whereas Bomberg is easy to categorize (unsung hero, recently reclaimed), Beuys is proving a greater challenge.

When he was alive, his works sold for the highest prices contemporary art had ever known — an estimated £250,000 for an installation. Beuys still means big money, and the thousands of people with a vested interest in him are going to fight to maintain



Joseph Beuys: what happens when 'art' goes rancid?

that fact. His widow Eva is currently battling it out in the courts for control of his estate.

Another complication lies in the works themselves. Not masterpieces in the traditional, aesthetic sense, they are fragments left over from a lifetime's avant-garde conceptual thought, and arguably dependent on Beuys's existence, presenting himself as shaman, or medicine man, out

to heal the world and, in particular, post-war Germany.

Highlights in the oeuvre include objects that are rendered ludicrous without their associations with the great man: like industrial waste; mortuary equipment; giant rolls of felt used to line a gallery, and "fat" chairs, their seats made from wedges of now rancid animal fat. Beuys himself was keen on the idea of everyone being an artist.

Germans are not asking whether there is any point in presenting Beuys's works, but how they should go about it. Most were incomplete; he was forever altering them to fit a given venue. The great debate is whether they should be left "mummified" as he last left them or modified according to the venue?

The debate continues pedantically in the German media, considered from every angle apart from scepticism. We should be grateful that, with Bomberg, the only question that remains is whether he is really any good.



Tournament of the mind

● A £5,000 cash prize awaits the individual winner as the tournament enters its ninth round, with questions set by Mensa to test logic, word power, numeracy and general knowledge.

ROUND NINE — QUESTIONS

2 VERBAL Score 8

FAST can become SLOW by changing one letter at a time. Each alteration must make an acceptable new word. What is the least number of changes you can make and what are they?

3 MATHS Score 5

Can you work out the logic of this series of numbers and then tell us which number should come next?

1 2 3 3 3 6 5 4 9 7 5

4 MISCELLANEOUS Score 8

Your bath is pretty conventional. It has two taps and a drainage hole. One of the taps completely fills the bath in eight minutes if the plug is in the hole. The other takes four minutes to perform the same function. With a full bath and the taps off, the time needed to drain it would be three minutes. Assuming that you have left both taps on and the plug out, how long will it take for the bath to be completely filled?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Score 2,3,3,2,2

1. In which country would you find the Book of Kells?
2. Which golfer won the British Open five times between 1977 and 1987?
3. Which privateer was given a royal commission to suppress pirates in the Indian Ocean in 1695?
4. Who was King of England at the time of the Peasants' Revolt?
5. How did "Good King Wenceslas" meet his death?



ROUND NINE — ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in The Times

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

Answer 5 NAME

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HEALTH

Prescribing a cure

A pioneering Cheshire practice — and its pharmacist — have discovered a way to cut prescription costs. Sally Brompton reports

In a tiny paper-filled office in Runcorn, Cheshire, 27-year-old Clare Dutton studies the fluorescent green data on her portable computer. What she is looking at adds up to a remarkable achievement in the form of a potentially multi-million pound saving on the National Health Service's annual drugs bill.

Dutton, a pharmacist, is attached to a general practice which is playing a pioneering role in the controversial area of NHS finance. While the practice continues over this week's Government decision to increase prescription charges to provide an extra £10 million for the Treasury, Dutton is helping the doctors in this thriving group practice to keep their prescribing costs to more than 25 per cent below the national average and, at the same time, improve their whole system of prescribing drugs.

While she may not be responsible for the full savings of the Hallwood Health Centre, a traditionally low-cost practice at Runcorn, there is no doubt that her work has gone a considerable way towards cutting prescribing costs for its 10,000 patients.

The chairman of the Cheshire Family Practitioner Committee, Simon Cusson, believes that by employing similar tactics in doctors' surgeries around the country, huge savings could be made by the NHS in the field of primary care, whose workers are responsible for 90 per cent of the health service's activities.

Prescribing has always been a particularly difficult area for general practitioners because of the constant influx of new drugs, their frequently detrimental

during its first two years; then funding lapsed until Dutton joined it last year. "We thought it would be something the DHSS would be keen to grab hold of but it proved to be very difficult," says Dr James Newey, one of the Hallwood doctors.

The £18,742 which it costs, including the pharmacist's £10,000 salary (the rest of the money goes on administrative costs) currently comes from the Mersey Regional Health Authority Research Committee. "I'm incredibly cost-effective," Dutton says. She estimates that next year she will be able to cut an additional £280,000 off the drugs bill in Runcorn and Widnes by working with other doctors in the area.

She is helping the five doctors in the Hallwood practice by providing them with an up-to-date formulary of 170 different drugs based on her research into their safety, efficacy, suitability and cost as well as the feedback she gets from the doctors themselves. The 42-page volume was welcomed by the GPs after years of working with the government's own hefty 164-page Drug Tariff.

By feeding the doctors' prescribing habits into her computer she has been able to pinpoint some significant patterns — frequently unrecognized by the doctors themselves. She discovered that one doctor was prescribing almost four times as much of one children's analgesic as another, unaware that the second, a different preparation of the same drug, was both sugar-free and almost half the price of the first.

Her advice on the pros and cons of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, prescribed for conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and muscular pain, resulted in the GPs reducing their prescriptions for one particular drug by approximately a quarter, saving around £600 a month in the process.

"Clare saves us a lot of time," Dr Andrew Zurak, another of the centre's doctors, admits. "Before she came my biggest influence in my choice of drugs was my consultant colleagues but I also — outdatedly perhaps — prescribed drugs which I had been trained to prescribe."

"We've benefited from Clare's work, the taxpayer has benefited, and our service to the patient has got very much better."

Professor Alasdair Breckenridge, professor of clinical pharmacology at Liverpool University, who helped to get the Hallwood project off the ground, would like to see it become widespread. He believes the Hallwood project is the only one of its kind in Britain. "Pharmacists have a greater specialist knowledge of drugs than doctors and if you consider that about 80 per cent of British drugs are prescribed by GPs then it's natural to bring the two of them together."

Breckenridge acknowledges that there may be some initial apprehension on the



Advice and savings: Clare Dutton, the Runcorn pharmacist

part of doctors "because none of us like our faults and areas of ignorance to be made manifest". But, he adds, "It is incredibly difficult for doctors to keep up with all the new drugs and clearly some of them don't stand up to prescribing the same old drugs or, even worse, whatever the last drug representative who has been to see them has recommended."

He would like to see pharmacists in all GPs' surgeries and to see them extending their duties to dealing with patients who require repeat prescriptions. Dutton also feels that there are areas in which she could help patients — mainly in terms of education.

"It's very difficult to make patients understand that if they don't get a prescription it doesn't mean that they're not being taken seriously. And, as far as the doctors are concerned, a prescription is often the quickest method of satisfying a patient."

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Sober 'alcoholics'

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The broadcaster Glyn Worsnip saddened fans this week with the news that he is suffering from cerebellar degeneration. The cerebellum is a centre in the brain which controls posture, muscle-balance and hence much of voluntary movement, including the fine movements which control speech. Once it fails not only does speech become slurred but the patient's gait becomes staggering, so that he or she walks with a stomping or "broad" gait; to increase stability, the patient has to walk with his legs wide apart. Patients with cerebellar disease would fall all those tests used by doctors before breathing. Their eyes flicker,

they are unable to walk down a straight line or pick a pin off the floor without stumbling, and they fall when their eyes are shut because they can only balance by taking their bearings from looking around the room. They often develop a coarse shake. So similar are the symptoms to those of drunkenness that Worsnip has apparently asked for publicity of his condition as he was tired of associates assuming his symptoms were due to alcohol; an unfair assumption as the causes of cerebellar disease are legion. It is occasionally induced by vitamin deficiency secondary to chronic alcoholism (so-called alcoholic-nutritional cerebellar degeneration) but in other patients it is caused by haemorrhages into the cerebellum or other stroke-like illness, poisoning with heavy metals or carbon monoxide, multiple sclerosis or other degenerative diseases. Nobody knows the cause of primary cerebellar degeneration, apparently the condition from which Worsnip is suffering, though some research workers claim to have established a familial pattern.

Carrot power

Before the Second World War, children were taught that eating carrots made their hair curl. During the war, carrots acquired a more macho image with a suggestion that the success of Cats Eye Cunningsham and Johnny Topham as night fighter pilots was as much due to their love of the vegetable as to the wonders of radar. Finally, when the war was over and Mediterranean beaches were presented as a natural way to prevent sunburn. Surprisingly, there is truth in all these claims. Beta carotene is the precursor of Vitamin A and the body utilizes just as much beta carotene as it needs — or is available — to manufacture. Although carotene is found in carrots and other pigmented green and yellow vegetables, Vitamin A in its complete form is ingested from animal products.

Deficiency of Vitamin A leads to night blindness (nyctalopia) as the rods, the cells of the retina needed for vision in poor light, contain a light-sensitive pigment derived from this vitamin, without which night vision is lost.

Red Indians from Canada and America, and the tribal Indians from South America, suffer severe sunburn when their intake of beta carotene is reduced, but given a supplement of beta carotene they are able to withstand the sun.

Deficiency of Vitamin A produces a dry rough skin which becomes susceptible to infection; the membranes of the eyelids and those overlying the cornea are particularly vulnerable. If the condition becomes well-developed opaque dry eye, known as xerophthalmia, can result — a

frequent cause of blindness in the Third World. The increased incidence of infection caused by Vitamin A deficiency is not only due to changes in the membrane of the pulmonary tree, which renders them less resistant to invading micro-organisms, but also to changes in the body's general immune state, partly as a result of a lack of vitality in white cell activity of patients with inadequate Vitamin A intake.

Out for the count

John Duffy, the railway killer with the staring eyes, is reported to have become a sadistic killer as a result of feelings of emotional inadequacy induced by having a low sperm count. If there is any truth in this suggestion it is exceptionally unlikely that it was more than a peripheral factor in the creation of his disordered personality. Even so, one can only hope that the sperm count was carried out carefully after a suitable period of continence, because all but the most fertile experience a catastrophic drop in the sperm count if they ejaculate too often. Judging from his wife's evidence Duffy had a voracious sexual appetite, so it would not be surprising if his sperm count was low. Presumably he had several counts done, as is recommended, and always after a period of abstinence, for it would be appalling to think that the whole pattern of his aberrant behaviour might have been determined by an inadequate briefing before the tests.

The quality of the sperm is almost as important as the quantity. More than 60 per cent of sperms should be active and intent on moving forwards, and a similar propor-

tion should be well-formed, without any obvious structural abnormalities. There should be at least 20 million sperm per cc of semen and the normal amount of semen should be between 1 and 5cc.

A bit ripe?

Although Flosie Appleyard was well over 80, her late husband's former employers remembered them both with such affection that they liked to give her a pheasant from time to time. An inquest in Norfolk last week heard how their generosity a few weeks ago had probably killed her. Mrs Appleyard died from pneumonia which developed after her general condition had been weakened by salmonella poisoning. There was only circumstantial evidence to link the pheasant with her undoubted salmonella infection, but the suspicions of the coroner were aroused not only by the symptoms of her disease, but also because her dog had sickened after he had finished up the scraps.

Salmonella is often referred to as if it were one disease, but there are more than 1,400 types. Usually, whatever the type, the signs and symptoms are confined to the gastrointestinal system, but it can affect other organs, too — or, as in Mrs Appleyard's case, opportunistic infections take advantage of the body's reduced resistance. Gourmets may prefer over-ripe pheasant, but might not be so happy if they realized that the microbiology of their gut for the next few days was dependent on the type of organism which had resulted in the bird's tenderness. If it was a pathogenic organism, they might well be in for an uncomfortable time.

Her advice resulted in the GPs reducing their prescriptions for one particular drug, saving around £600 a month

The main problem for the busy family practitioner is trying to keep up to date with what is happening in the fiercely competitive drug industry. Dutton admits that it would be impossible for her to read all the information which is put out by the drug companies and chronicled in the pages of the medical press — even though it is a major part of her job.

In the case of GPs it is only one aspect of their professional responsibilities. "Doctors have neither the time to look through the literature nor, in most cases, the expertise," Dutton says. "It is something we are specifically taught as pharmacists, but I don't think a doctor would have that skill." She constantly updates her knowledge with the help of the regional health authority's Drug Information Service and by liaising with clinical pharmacologists.

The project was begun in 1982, after the doctors had spent three years trying to raise the necessary funding. (Another pharmacist worked with the project

Too high a price to pay?

American trials of a cancer drug look grim — but will Britain do better?

Interleukin-2 (IL-2), a drug for cancer which boosts the immune system, continues to be controversial. On Monday the Horizon programme shown on BBC1, which was made for WGBH-TV Boston, focused on three American skin cancer sufferers who were being treated with IL-2. None of the patients — a middle-aged man and two young women — showed a lasting improvement. Two have since died.

Viewers were shown side-effects which included raging fevers, long shivering spells, severe swelling, and itchy dermatitis. Worst of all, it seemed that the patients' hopes were raised and then shattered as they realized that the treatment had failed to save them.

However, according to Dr Tim Oliver, reader in medical oncology at the London Hospital who has been testing IL-2

on British patients since September, the picture is not nearly as bleak as it seems. In the last few months, much gentler methods of giving this treatment have been devised on both sides of the Atlantic. In the United States, where 36 hospitals have tested the drug, about one patient in four feels a major benefit, although it is still too soon to say how many of them will turn out to have been cured. In Britain, where the drug is also being used on patients at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, and at St Thomas's in London, researchers have not yet published their results.

Horizon described the ethical dilemma faced by the medical profession. Is it right

to put large numbers of dying people through a regime which will, currently, save only a tiny minority? Oliver admits that he finds it hard to decide where to draw the line when testing brand new treatments. "We know that with every treatment of value, you fail to see success with the first few patients to try it," he says.

Often the patients themselves plead to be included in the latest clinical trials and of course doctors want to become more effective in treating cancer, so they are keen to experiment with the newest therapies. But, Oliver points out, it usually takes hundreds or thousands of patients to test a new drug before the right dosage regimen can be found.

He feels that the Horizon programme overstated the sickness and discomfort caused by IL-2, no worse, he says, than that experienced by patients on established chemotherapy treatments.

Interleukin-2 is a natural body substance which can be manufactured in the laboratory. It is a hormone-like molecule which activates the immune system, turning white blood cells into killer cells that attack foreign organisms. Cancer cells are produced when normal growth control mechanisms fail; they survive because the immune system often fails to respond to their biochemical abnormalities.

The American patients were treated with IL-2 for five days. Their blood was then passed through a centrifuge where billions of white cells were filtered off and treated with more IL-2. This resulted in a vast increase in the number of natural killer cells. These white cells were then replaced, and the patient was given yet

more IL-2. It was at this stage that the worst side-effects were likely to occur.

Oliver believes it is no longer necessary to filter and treat the white cells in the patient's blood. His patients, stay in bed for a month while they receive the drug from an intravenous drip. Their blood has to be frequently tested to see the effect on their white cell counts. Oliver's research project started a year later than he would have liked, because, he says, his local



Cautions: Dr Tim Oliver

health authority was unable to support his research. He has had to appeal to local businessmen and charities for money to pay for the nursing staff he needs to monitor his patients although they are allowed to use NHS hospital beds.

The results have not been too encouraging, although Oliver now admits to a glimmer of hope. But like all cancer researchers, he weighs his words with great care. "Interleukin-2 is a potentially exciting new development," he says. And he believes it may well turn out to be a breakthrough in mobilizing the body's own defences against cancer.

Ann Kent

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TOMORROW

Barbara Amiel's weekly viewpoint

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1504

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

ACROSS

1 Concide (6)
4 Unapplied (6)
9 Window traverse (7)
10 Sudden onset attack (5)
11 Large comfortable seat
12 Spectre (7)
14 Saffron (4,2,5)
15 Spanner's rod (7)
19 Wild gathering (4)
22 Having a lead (3,2)
24 Legal share (4,3)
25 Slim, urbane (6)
26 Torpor (6)

DOWN

1 Obligation (4)
2 Alibi capital laws taker (5)
3 Unbeholden prophet (9)
5 Tip (3)
6 Release from life (7)
7 Catalyst protein (6)
8 Little buttercup op.

SOLUTION TO NO 1503

ACROSS: 1 Throw (5) 5 Ship 9 Rubber 10 Oscar 11 Stiff 12 Tank 13 Lizard 15 Mole 16 Elgar 18 Meets 20 Kilt 21 No. 23 York 24 Indecent

DOWN: 1 Tablet 2 Road back 3 Web 4 Foreign Legion 6 Tick 7 Barker 8 Confines 11 Skirmish 14 Magazine 15 Monkey 17 Re- 19 Bear 22 Cue

TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

I have just remembered why I never go to the cinema. On Tuesday, there being for the first time since about Christmas no first night to cover, I decided on the strength of David Robinson's *Times* review that Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* must be that rarity of rarities, a movie so huge that it would not actually look better on video in the comfort of my television a year hence.

Accordingly, I began thinking about Leicester Square. I had, however, reckoned without the management of the Odeon there, who have transformed ticket-buying into a refined form of torture which even the Borgias at their most inventive might have envied and admired. First of all, despite the fact that most West End theatres were over to 24-hour booking facilities by credit card and phone at least a year ago, the Odeon does not open its only two phone lines until 10.30am, whereupon they become immediately and permanently engaged.

Undeterred, I actually went down to Leicester Square at lunchtime, to find heavy, freezing rain and two long queues, one winding to the north of the building and the other to the south. Neither was signposted, so only after half an hour in the north queue did I discover that I was in line for the afternoon performance rather than the evening show. Still undeterred, I started again at the back of the south queue, where there was a junior house manager empowered to keep the line rigidly up against the side of the cinema but not to pass on any information about how long the queue might take to reach the box office window, or whether — if one eventually got there — they might still have any tickets left, and if so at what prices.

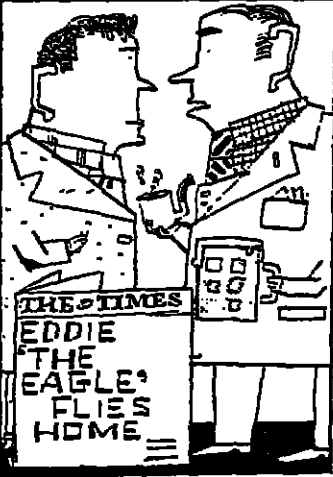
When, after another hour or so in the correct queue, you finally get to the window, it is to discover, first, that although two desks are visible through the glass only one is ever occupied, thereby nearly doubling the length of the queue, and second that once you have overcome all other obstacles the Odeon still has one final booby trap for you. The cinema will not accept credit cards if you are booking on the day for the day, and this despite the fact that almost every other box office in London will accept them over the phone, let alone when actually shown them in tangible plastic. At a time when the mayor of New York is leading street demonstrations to protest against Manhattan cinema prices going up from six to seven dollars, an Odeon charging seven whole pounds a ticket could at least ensure that those tickets are easier to come by than ten shilling notes.

Oh yes, what about the film? Like China itself, vast and sprawling and curiously boring after the first few hours.

The single most terrifying advertisement I have recently come across was boxed in yesterday's media pages: the BBC is, it appears, setting up an entire unit to "develop several film- and studio-based programmes featuring Clive James". Jobs are being offered to producers (£25,000 per annum), assistant producers (£20,000 per annum), researchers (£15,000), and though it doesn't say how many of these there will be, it does add reassuringly that "journalistic experience would be advisable".

It also adds that they will be based in west London, which must be a relief to those who reckoned they might have to end up in downtown Perth. But however much one admires Mr James, and as it happens I do, can you imagine how many programmes will have to be made with him in order to justify a licence-paid outlay of around £100,000 a year in staff costs alone? By next winter he will make it seem positively invisible by comparison.

BARRY FANTONI



This week's news that the veteran Broadway impresario David Merrick is to produce his first straight play in London comes as a sharp reminder that he is the last of the old theatrical fighters. Merrick has never been one to take bad notices lying down: he once found several Brooklyn cab drivers with the same names as Broadway reviewers, and published their rave notices all over his posters when the originals failed to come up to his standards of enthusiasm. More recently, when the fame and fortune of his *42nd Street* threatened to be overtaken by *Phantom of the Opera* in New York, he simply moved his curtain time from 8 to 8.30pm in order to allow posters reading "Broadway's latest hit". There is a lot to be said for a producer who is funnier and more flamboyant than most of the shows he presents.

Working in Tudor Street, surrounded on all sides by what appears to be the largest building site since they completed Milton Keynes, it is difficult not to be curious about who our near Fleet Street neighbours will be once the last of the newspapers pulls out in the next year or so.

The rumour is that they are all to be Japanese bankers, which will make lunchtime gossip in the pub a lot more inscrutable than news of minor staffing changes in features departments. And if the local shops are anything to go by, the Japanese are the most likely bet: Fleet Street now seems to be entirely full of shops selling nothing but shampoo and cameras. Hygiene and photography were always said to be oriental passions.

Mr Bryan Gould's criticisms in the Commons this week of the possible purchase by British Aerospace of the state-owned Rover group might sound cogent on first hearing. It is true that British Aerospace has no expertise in manufacturing or selling cars for a mass market, and international defence markets are a highly specialized business.

It is also true that the record of defence companies successfully diversifying into civil markets leaves much to be desired. The merger could, as the Opposition's Chief Spokesman suggested, provide an example of the sort of conglomerate merger which had shown such poor results in the past. However, this is by no means a foregone conclusion, and it is not true that the possible merger lacks industrial logic.

The move is a logical one for British Aerospace in its present circumstances. It also, as it happens, fits in with government thinking on the defence industry in general. At the time of the Westland crisis, the Ministry of Defence suggested that for major companies its ideal defence contractor would be part of a larger industrial conglomerate with a range of both military and civil

activities and with access to substantial financial resources. At present British Aerospace and its subsidiary, Royal Ordnance, are heavily dependent on sales of defence equipment, especially to the Ministry of Defence. Within the aerospace division, the military business has been profitable, while civil aircraft have incurred losses despite accounting for more than 20 per cent of aerospace sales. However, on the military side, future sales prospects are uncertain and markets are likely to be increasingly competitive.

After a period of real growth in defence spending in the United Kingdom, defence budgets have been declining since 1985, with reduced but level funding in real terms planned for 1988-1991. Within this limited UK defence budget, priority for the Trident missile programme means reduced orders for new con-

ventional equipment such as aircraft, tanks and warships. The increased emphasis on competition in defence procurement also means a greater willingness to buy from abroad. In addition, there are likely to be cuts in military research and development spending since the Government has expressed concern that it may crowd out valuable civil high-technology. In these circumstances it is not surprising that British Aerospace is seeking to reduce dependence on its traditional defence aerospace business.

The acquisition of the Rover car company would give British Aerospace a much wider range of civil activities. It would provide potentially profitable opportunities for exchanging and applying technical, managerial, production and marketing expertise between the aerospace and car business. In particular,

British Aerospace is heavily involved in advanced defence research and development and the Rover acquisition would provide it with more opportunities to apply this high-technology within its own more broadly based business.

Future developments in aerospace are expected to involve collaboration between Europe and Japan, where Rover already has established links with Honda. Finally the acquisition of the car group would give British Aerospace ownership of a substantial number of plants located on prime sites in the south of England, offering opportunities for rationalizing production and selling off under-utilized capacity.

Contrary to Bryan Gould's view, there are some examples of conglomerate mergers which have survived and been profitable. GEC is one of Britain's

largest defence contractors with a wide range of both military and civil products, while the British cigarette companies have diversified into a range of other markets (for example, Imperial Tobacco, now owned by Hanson Trust). Other examples of companies with major aerospace and car business include Daimler-Benz in Germany, Fiat in Italy, and Saab in Sweden.

British Aerospace has evolved over the years. Originally a specialist in military and civil aircraft, missile and space projects, it has since being privatized in 1981, diversified by acquiring the Gyroscopic Division of Sperry Ltd, Royal Ordnance and shareholdings in companies involved in such activities as software simulation in the UK, the United States and West Germany.

Critics of the proposed merger

with Rover might justify their acquisitions in terms of British Aerospace's traditional involvement in defence and the related computer and electronics market. But if British Aerospace acquires Rover, then it will represent a return to a previous era when the major aircraft firms were part of larger industrial groupings such as English Electric, Hawker Siddeley and Vickers.

Mergers occur for a variety of reasons, such as the desire for economies of scale in research and development and in production, or to achieve monopoly power or to diversify. Ultimately, though, the industrial logic of any merger involving private companies depends on its expected profitability. And that is why Professor Roland Smith, BAE's chairman, warned the Government this week that they could expect him to drive a very hard bargain. From the Government's point of view, however, the best bargain might well be obtained by allowing market forces to operate and inviting competitive leaders for Rover.

The author is professor of economics at York University.

Keith Hartley finds persuasive reasons for BAe to buy Rover

This merger makes sense

Bernard Levin

Crumbling of a sham kingdom

It is very unlikely indeed that Mr Gorbachev has ever read Chesterton's *The Napoleon of Notting Hill*. In that respect, therefore, I have the advantage of him: I have read it at least a dozen times, and I read it again last week, with him specifically in mind. Those of my readers who know it will at once see the connection; for the others, and for him, let me explain.

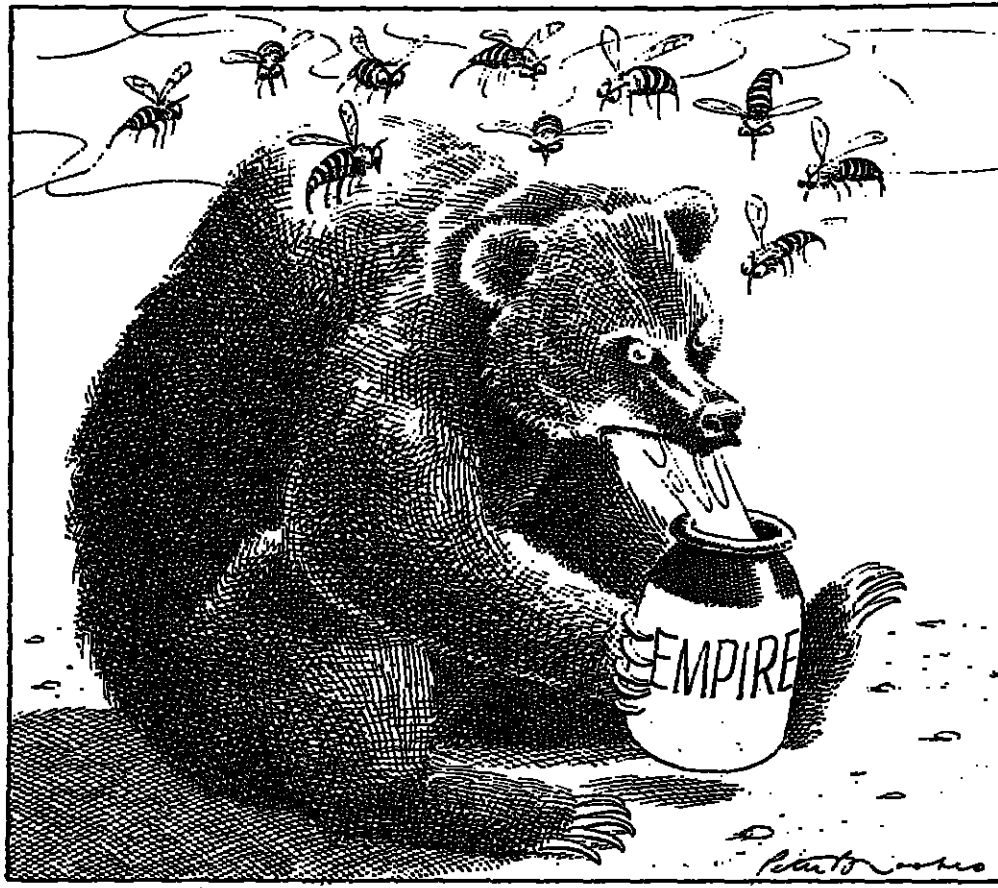
Chesterton's fantasy is of a London turned into a great league of city-states, at the whim of the whimsical King. All these boroughs where you were born, and hope to lay your bones, shall be reinstated in their ancient magnificence: Hammersmith, Kensington, Bayswater, Chelsea, Battersea, Clapham, Balham, and a hundred others. Each shall immediately build a city wall with gates to be closed at sunset. Each shall have a city guard, and, if convenient, a gathering cry... If, therefore, any of you happen to have such a thing as a halibut in the house, I should advise you to practise with it in the garden.

And so it comes to pass, to the great embarrassment of the prosaic and respectable rulers of the various boroughs. But one of them takes it seriously; he is Adam Wayne, the man of the book's title. Lord High Provost of Notting Hill, and he takes it so seriously that in standing firm for justice and honour in his tiny, absurd, magnificent fief, he brings about a bloody and terrible internecine war. In the book's dedication (to Hilaire Belloc), there is a verse which sums up the story and its meaning alike.

Likelier across these flats afar
These sulky levels smooth and free
The drums shall crash a waltz of war
And death shall dance with Liberty;
Likelier the barricades shall blaze
Slaughter below and smoke above,
And death and hate and hell declare
That men have found a thing to love.
And now you know what this has got
To do with Mr Gorbachev, if

you didn't before. The events of the past few weeks in Soviet Armenia are not, of course, to be explained simply in terms of nationalism; the whole of the Soviet Union's southern marches is a seething stew of religion, race and bitter memories, as well as directly national feeling. The original *casus turbae*, it is true, was largely nationalist, consisting as it did of the predominantly Armenian area of neighbouring Azerbaijan should be detached therefrom and incorporated in their own region; what is more, the gigantic Armenian demonstrations in furtherance of this cause were rapidly followed by rioting in Azerbaijan, clearly designed to resist any such transfer of territory. It is still an oversimplification, though, to believe that these portents are cut from the same cloth as the stirrings in the Baltic states and the even more tenacious sense of identity in the Ukraine.

And over-simplification; but not a fallacy. Stalin saw, very early in his rule, the threat to him posed by the multifarious nationalisms of his empire, and he set about destroying them with a genocidal ruthlessness; eight entire nations were deported from their homelands; their very identity obliterated; almost half of all of them died. (The dreadful story is told in detail by Professor Robert Conquest in *The Nation Killers*.) But he had a special and even more terrible fate in store for the Ukrainians; the deliberately engineered famine was designed to destroy a people's knowledge of themselves, and in the course of it to destroy more millions of human beings than died, on all sides put together, in the First World War. (Professor Conquest has told this story, too, in *The Harvest of Sorrow*.) And the extermination in the Gulag of literally uncountable thousands of Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians was similarly directed to destroying not just human beings but the idea of being Latvian, Lithuanian or Estonian.



All Stalin's successors have recognized the same danger, and although the rabid slaughter of men, women and children ceased, the oppression did not; again, the Ukraine bore the brunt. For well over half a century, then, the rulers of the Soviet empire have set themselves, employing whatever means they deemed efficacious, to root out of the hearts of the Soviet people any feeling that their own historic nationality takes precedence over their nationality as citizens of the USSR.

And they have failed. Indeed, they have done worse than fail; all the decades of murder and repression have served only to increase the nationalist feeling among the Soviet empire's subject peoples, and however complex and individual are the

causes of the present unrest among them, that sense of a separate and definable collective identity is somewhere in there. Adversity, of course, is a powerfully cohesive force, and persecution even more so, as the Jews have history's best reason to know; the Soviet nationalities clung the more tightly to their national memories the more the tyrants sought to deprive them of any such recollections. For the rivers of Babylon flow in every land, and there is no exile remote enough for its victims to lose the knowledge that there is a world elsewhere: If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

It is easy to see this in the countries which the Soviet Union has seized since the end of the Second World War. Nobody

SCIENCE REPORT

Eye of crab

Dr D.E. Nilsson, a biologist at the University of Lund, Sweden, this week claims the rare honour of having discovered a quite novel design of eye, which works on optical principles until now unknown in the animal world.

The discovery, reported in today's *Nature*, comes from a study of the eyes of hermit and other crabs. Although crabs have been a favourite of naturalists for several centuries, no one until now has spotted that their eyes are fiendishly complex, using a remarkable combination of curved mirrors and graded optical lenses.

The discovery adds a ninth type of eye to biological designs ranging across the animal kingdom, from the simple eye-pits of worms to the camera-like eyes of human beings. The eyes of hermit crabs are "compound", like those of insects, formed from a many-windowed cluster of small lenses.

Several distinct types of compound eyes are already recognized. In some, each lens works separately, focusing light on its own private light-sensitive retina. Each facet looks at one part of the world around the animal, and the brain integrates the mosaic of pictures from the whole array.

Whether this would also be the public's opinion is another matter, but even if identity cards were accepted it does not follow that the end of the security provided by port controls would be welcomed. If Utopian free movement is not attained by 1992, the Community will not be shaken, but it is one concrete example of the practical difficulties in welding a continental entity out of a collection of sovereign states, each with its own separate interest.



cluster of small lenses, a transparent zone behind each of them allows the light to be combined into a single bright image of the outside world.

Moths form this image in a rather conventional way, using lenses. Behind the surface lenses is a second set directing incoming rays of light to a focus. Each unit is in fact a tiny telescope.

Shrimps, astonishingly though it may seem, use mirrors to do the same job. Each unit of their compound eyes is square and lined with flat reflectors. Rays of light ricochet down the walls, following a path like that of a billiard ball fired into the corner of the table, and are funnelled down to a focus at the back of the eye.

The mirror eye was a great surprise when it was discovered three years ago. But its design is simplicity itself when

compared with the gothic wonders of the crab eye.

Nilsson found that the crab eye uses both lenses and mirrors. The mirrors are not even flat, but strangely curved into parabolas that, if they were a little larger, would make them fine distorting mirrors for a fairground. But the hermit crab turns their distorting properties to advantage.

The mirrors are positioned so that they intercept highly converging rays of light, by a lens at the surface of each facet. The curved mirror neatly spreads the rays of light back apart so that they continue on their way to form an image at the back of the eye. Crabs thus cunningly use a mirror to achieve the same effect as a lens.

But why has the crab evolved this bizarre design? The answer seems to be that it enables the animal to adapt to bright light. Compound eyes have no pupil to adjust the amount of entering light. But the crab is able to draw a veil of pigment across the surfaces of its mirrors, reducing the reflection in bright light.

Strange though the crab's eye may be, it may be more than a mere curiosity. The mirror eyes of shrimps resemble the designs of X-ray telescopes, and the way light is bent by the lenses of moth eyes has been copied in designing optical fibres.

The crab's eye may be just the right solution for some engineer's problem.

ALUN ANDERSON

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QUARRE

Not every day...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

Soil, the...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

The claims...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

In the law...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

The Archbishop...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

A general...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

Attendance...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

The...
The author is professor of economics at York University.

صكنا من الاصل



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

QUARREL AT THE CENTRE

It is not every day that a new political party is founded and the launch of the Social and Liberal Democrats this morning is something of an event. There is vacant ground to be filled in British politics by a party capable of acting as a constructive and publicly acceptable non-socialist alternative to Thatcherite Conservatism and the condition of the Labour Party is still such as to leave that ground for the SLD to claim.

It cannot, however, be said that the figures on which the new party is launched are auspicious. Though the Liberal Party's members voted overwhelmingly for merger, with nearly 88 per cent for only 12 per cent against, the turn-out was only just over half the total party membership of 90,000. This is hardly a demonstration of wild Liberal enthusiasm for the change. Every Liberal Party member had a ballot paper and the fact that 48 per cent thought it not worthwhile to post it is a comment.

Still, the insignificance of the "no" vote also reflects the reality that the great majority of Liberals accept merger as the only practical outcome of their recent difficulties. Those who dislike it know that they have nowhere else to go except the new party. It will largely be the old Liberal Party and its grassroots organization with a top dressing of Social Democrats and an improved constitution. This may be passive acquiescence in merger rather than enthusiasm, but it is a great deal more than the merging Social Democrats can claim.

Of the old Social Democratic Party membership 65 per cent voted for merger, and 34 per cent — nearly 10,000 — voted against, though again only just over half of all members voted. Unlike the dissident Liberals, however, the dissident Social Democrats do have somewhere else to go — to Dr David Owen — and it can be assumed that this 10,000 represents the nucleus of the new party he now intends to build up.

The claims from Dr Owen's camp of about 30,000 potential members of a "new" SDP are probably exaggerated. Nevertheless, a proportion of the 24,000 Social Democrats who chose

not to vote in the ballot will join him. He may start with something like 20,000, the number thereafter depending on how credibly and effectively his new party seems to function.

The big advantage of the Owenite SDP is that it has a politically attractive leader. It is this that the SLD, for all the ballyhoo of its launch, will most conspicuously lack. If it is to be something more than the old Liberal Party, it needs a leader capable of understanding the changes Thatcherism has brought to the political scene and respond positively to them. Mr David Steel, despite his recovery since the initial fiasco of his personal policy deal with Mr Robert MacLennan, is too tarred by the brush of old Liberal manoeuvres to inspire confidence, though he seems very likely to be a candidate. Other possible leaders are, with the possible exception of Mr Paddy Ashdown, too dull, too insubstantial or too young.

But if the SLD is a party without a natural leader, the Owenite SDP starts almost as a leader without much of a political party. What is more, both will be contesting the same centre-ground. This is hardly likely to persuade voters that supporting either is casting a useful vote. Given the continued unpopularity of the Labour left, there should be scope for a revival of the centre in the time-honoured way by which the Liberals have traditionally benefited from discontent with the Tory incumbents. But can the centre revive when it is fighting itself?

No sensible judgements can be made at least until the local government elections in May, or by-elections, indicate whether there is to be internecine war in the centre and what sort of grassroots support and organization each has. The SLD starts with the clear advantage of the inherited Liberal skill with pavement politics and local insights which the Owenite SDP, with its concentration on national issues, lacks. But for all its new logo and its new constitution, the SLD still has to prove that it is more than the old Liberal Party. So far only the two major parties seem likely to benefit from the merger and quarrel at the centre.

THE CRIME OF BLASPHEMY

The question of whether the common law offence of blasphemy in this country should be abolished has agitated the public mind ever since Mrs Whitehouse successfully brought a private prosecution against *Gay News* in 1976 for publishing a poem which portrayed Christ as a homosexual. The controversy the case aroused prompted the Law Commission to inquire into what, if any changes were needed in the law.

In 1985, it produced a majority report recommending that blasphemy should cease to be a crime. It argued that the offence was difficult to define and that in a modern pluralist society, such protection as the law specifically afforded to religion should be given impartially to all religions and not restricted (as it is at present) to Christianity and even, arguably, solely to the Church of England. A distinguished minority, however, dissented. While agreeing that blasphemy should go as a criminal offence, it suggested that there should be a new law which would make it a punishable offence to insult the feelings of the adherents of any religion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has now sent to the Lord Chancellor the report of a working party on the subject. This group supports the findings of the Law Commission's minority report. The Archbishop and his advisers are fully conscious of the difficulties presented by the idea of a generalized protection of religion. Who is to say what a religion is?

A general statutory definition of religion would be extraordinarily hard to draft and extremely difficult for the courts to interpret. A statutory approved list of respectable religions entitled to public protection would be extremely hard to compile and it would be necessary to provide for additions to it from time to time. It would be cruel to add to the Home Secretary's burdens of that of testing the validity of applications from newly-born sects for recognition as legitimate churches. The group's suggested solution — that juries should be allowed to settle the matter in every case — is manifestly unsatisfactory.

OVERPLAYING THE GAME

As England's beleaguered cricketers begin their third and final Test against New Zealand, they seem already to be looking forward to stumps being drawn. After seven full Tests, 16 one-day internationals, in four countries, in five months, who can blame them? Of more concern is the thought that the public who have watched them play might also not be sorry to see the end of the tour.

Attendances (and hence receipts) have been very disappointing in New Zealand. Cricket there is not the major sport that it is in Australia or India. But in Pakistan, too, before Christmas, the crowds for the most part fell below expectations.

A number of causes are blamed for this. A prominent target is the influence of television. Indeed, the temptation to become an armchair cricket follower may seem irresistible during long matches in poor weather when cricket can be rained off or brought to a premature close through fading light. The main cause, however, is elsewhere. The chief thing wrong with cricket is that there is too much of it.

The burgeoning of the one-day game has brought national teams together in an endless, confusing, clash of would-be Titans. The recent proliferation of matches between England and Pakistan and England and New Zealand, and the dwindling interest in them, would seem to have proved the point — that the public's appetite for the game is not insatiable.

This country has so far escaped the worst effects. County cricket in England is almost certainly too intense, with three one-day

The dilemma seems insoluble. Are devil worshippers to have the same legal protection as Christians, Jews and Muslims? Certainly they should not; but exclude them, and a case for other exclusions could be argued. The temptation is to abandon the idea of any specific protection for religion as such.

Surely, this would not mean that the practitioners of non-Christian religions would be abandoned to the mercies of hooligans and fanatics. Other laws — for example, that which forbids actions likely to lead to a breach of the peace — can still be called in aid. If this is not adequate, it should not defy legal subtlety to produce new laws of a general nature the application of which would not involve defining what is a religion.

The most contentious element in the Archbishop's report as in that of the Law Commission, however, is the proposal that the special safeguards which the law provides against insults to the Christian religion and to the established Church in particular should go. This will inflame Archbishop Runcie's critics still further. Before they concentrate their fire on him, however, they should remember that their hero, the Bishop of London, was the chairman of his working party.

Nevertheless, the working party can be charged with having fallen into a humanist trap by assuming that the purpose of the law against blasphemy is merely to ensure that religious people are spared emotional distress. In the past, blasphemy was punished because it was thought to be in itself a heinous crime and because it was felt proper that the law should express the fact that this is a Christian country.

Though the law is seldom invoked, its presence may still have a salutary effect on society. Its removal might, in practice, make it harder to complain of those casual insults to Christianity on radio and television which inflict deep injury on the faithful. So long as we continue to have an established church, we cannot deem ourselves to be, in religious matters, a wholly pluralist society.

competitions as well as the county championship squeezed into a rain-interrupted summer. But the number of internationals, at least, has been contained. The Test and County Cricket Board can probably look forward with some confidence to full or nearly full grounds when the West Indies arrive to take guard again this year — despite comprehensive television and radio coverage.

But the experience of this winter is a warning to the TCCB not to overload the programme in future years. The absence of several "stars" from the present touring party suggests that cricketers, too, with families and business interests, can come to find this sporting life exhausting.

The displays of dissent and bad temper in recent years may also be the products of rising pressures and tired minds. Controversy in cricket is, of course, not new — witness the "bodyline" tour of Australia before the war. But the petulance shown recently, though ostensibly caused by poor umpiring, reflects the growing physical and mental strain.

Sponsorship and the spate of competitions have brought more prosperity to the national game and it is easy to understand why most players and organizers are anxious to make the most they can of their relatively brief playing careers and short seasons. But they should also be aware of the risks they run of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. "Cricket, lovely cricket", as the cypriote had it, could all too easily lose its lustre and its joy.

LA art lesson for London

From Mr Brian Angel
Sir, Sarah Jane Checkland ("Artful", February 25) justly commends Birmingham for introducing a "percentage-for-art" scheme for its new Bull Ring project. This, together with knowledge that 21 states of America similarly allocate 1 per cent of budgets for new buildings to art spending, highlights the paucity of contemporary public art in London's public places and a dismal record of London's opportunities lost.

As a Britisher, I am excited that here in Los Angeles, the Community Redevelopment Agency of the city has been edging up the percentage in recent years to 1½ per cent. The public stands to benefit by \$35 million from development sources being spent on art in the next 10 years. Even the transport authorities require that one-half of one per cent of construction costs of subway stations will now be spent on art — a further \$3.6 million for the 18 proposed stations. As a result, Los Angeles is developing a spectacular series of art projects in public places.

What usually happens here is that developers retain an art consultant or architect who will advise and select museum-quality art pieces which would otherwise be unavailable publicly. The scheme is enjoying, indeed, a response exceeding even the original best hopes. In a parcel of land owned by the Wells Fargo Bank the projected art budget was \$100,000 but the developers of their own accord elevated the art expenditure to \$1.1 million, providing works by Kauschenberg and Nauman among others.

May we hope that Prince Andrew will have been inspired by the "percent-for-art" results he sees here in Los Angeles and, emulating his brother's concern for the environment, encourage our own city of London at last to start similar initiatives, albeit after decades of art-insensitive development.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ANGEL, Director,
The International Contemporary Art Fairs of Los Angeles and London,
525 North Sycamore Suite 206,
Los Angeles,
CA 90036, USA.
February 27.

On the mainland

From the High Commissioner for Belize
Sir, I wonder how many of the viewers of the Channel Four television programme "Path of the Rain God", the first part of which was aired last night (February 21) and which was seeing the programme for the first time (the programme is a rerun) realised that Belize is not "a tiny Caribbean island", as suggested in the introduction, and indeed as published in the media (including *The Times*) TV guides.

Belize (British Honduras until 1973) is an independent (September, 1981) Commonwealth country on the Central American mainland and boasts the longest barrier reef in the western hemisphere. With a coastline of almost 200 miles and a total land area of 8,800 square miles the country is not tiny, even in relative terms.

Yours sincerely,
EDNEY CAIN,
Belize High Commission,
15 Thayer Street, W1.
February 22.

Defending Mr Aitken

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)
Sir, May I refer briefly to your leading article "A trust ill kept" (February 26)? I say nothing here about Mr Jonathan Aitken's Saudi connection. He has already made a full statement on the matter which, as far as I know, neither you nor anyone else has challenged.

The last two paragraphs of your article, however, taken together amount to a claim that Mr Aitken is unfit to hold public office. In support of this you cite his "buccaneering egotism".

The *Oxford Dictionary* describes "egotism" as "the frequent use of the word 'I', hence the practice of talking about one's self and one's doings". No one who has worked with Mr Aitken in the House of Commons could possibly accuse him of such characteristics. On the contrary he is, in my experience, rather reserved.

No doubt he has the independence of mind and the adventurous disposition that mark the buccaner. But, surely these are virtues in a public man and good qualifications for office?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
March 1.

Outrageous fortune?

From the Marquess of Bath
Sir, You have reported (February 25) that I am a millionaire to the tune of £198 million no less. I wish I were. I am merely what lawyers are pleased to call a tenant for life. I own neither Longleat House nor its admittedly fabulous contents, all of which are vested in trustees.

I am simply entitled to the income — net, mark you — after paying all the costs of upkeep. Let one of your staff loose on that and see what my worth is then.

Yours faithfully,
BATH,
Job's Mill,
Warminster, Wiltshire.

Concern for those in special need

From the Director of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, and others

Sir, As leaders of national organisations for people with mental, physical and sensory disabilities, we write to express our profound concern at the potential effects of the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority on special education in the capital.

At present, 8,300 children in inner London have a statement of special educational need. For over 97 per cent of these children, their needs are met in ILEA schools, colleges and special units. Most are in special schools and special units attached to mainstream schools; 1,200 receive individual attention in mainstream schools. In addition, there are many children with less severe needs, who do not require a statement, but benefit from the range of ILEA unified support services.

Provision of special education in the ILEA is unrivalled nationally. The authority caters for different special educational needs from pre-school to further education. These schools can offer such specialised help because of the size of the present authority, and we are concerned that small boroughs could not possibly offer such a range of provision or the inspectorate back-up on offer at present.

If education is passed to the inner-London boroughs, we would find the only secondary school for the deaf — Oak Lodge — and the only boarding school for the blind children both in Wandsworth. At present, they draw children from all over inner London. Schools for autistic children, physically disabled pupils and children with learning difficulties would be dispersed and lacking in the central support currently provided. The education of children with special needs can only suffer in such circumstances.

We urge the secretary of state to consider the effect of abolishing the ILEA on special education in inner London. Without central com-

A teacher's worth?

From Mr Jonathan Lauffer and Mr Peter Allwright
Sir, In December last we conducted, on behalf of the Oxford Local Examining Board, a single oral examination for a boy at our school sitting Oxford Russian. The examination took 15 minutes (excluding preparation) to conduct.

We received today our remuneration, and were staggered to discover a cheque made out for the princely sum of 48 pence! Feeling that the board's need was obviously far greater than our own it gave us much pleasure to return the 48 pence to the sender.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. LAUFFER,
PETER ALLWRIGHT,
City of London School,
Modern Languages Department,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
February 25.

Annual audits

From Mr H. Kileman
Sir, I should like to comment on the recent exchange of correspondence (February 20, 25) on the statutory audit for small businesses, not as one of those vested interests, as referred to (February 25) by Arthur Green, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, but as an owner of a small business and Chairman of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council.

I have to say that CBI's smaller firms have not found the production of a statutory audit one of the more onerous burdens placed upon them. The information produced is invariably required for other outside purposes, and, furthermore, the production of regular financial information is an essential discipline and important for creditors as well as shareholders.

However, there is certainly scope for simplifying and reducing the amount of information companies are required to produce and we would hope that if the Government does decide to look at this issue, it will consult closely with those organisations representing the views of the smaller firms themselves.

Yours,
H. KILEMAN (Chairman,
CBI Smaller Firms Council),
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Sticky problem

From Mr Jonathan Sayeed, MP for Bristol East (Conservative)
Sir, Recently, I installed a dish washer and a washing machine into previously plumbed positions. To unpack, release the working mechanism, connect up and level the two machines took a total of 40 minutes.

To remove the myriad gum-based labels without scratching the surfaces took a further hour. Could all manufacturers please use self-adhesive, peel-off plastic labels or tie-on tags?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SAYEED,
1 Ranelagh Road, SW1.

Perfect timing

From Mrs R. F. Edward-Collins
Sir, Reading about "boiled collins" in letters from your readers (February 18, 23, 25) reminds me of a watch of mine which responded to another kind of cooking.

When I was a student in Edinburgh (a long time ago) my watch stopped for no apparent reason. My landlady advised me

ordination and the wide choice offered at the moment by the ILEA, children with special needs and their parents will suffer.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE WHITLAM (Director, Royal National Institute for the Deaf),
GEORGE WILSON (Director, Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation),
HARRY CAYTON (Director, National Deaf Children's Society),
RICHARD STOWELL (Director, National Bureau for Handicapped Students),
LESLIE MARKS (Chief Executive, Greater London Association for Disabled People),
PENNY JUNEIDI (Director, Parents in Partnership),
c/o Royal National Institute for the Deaf,
105 Gower Street, WC1,
February 26.

From the National Director of MIND
Sir, In the recent and continuing debate on health care and the NHS little has been heard about those with long-term needs. People with mental illnesses, mental handicaps and elderly people are supposed to be the "priority" groups. Yet that priority seems suddenly to have gone.

In its place is a concern for the acute sector of medicine. The handful of hole-in-the-heart babies has replaced concern for the thousands, if not millions, of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Mental distress is diagnosed in one in eight of us every year. Two hundred thousand people are admitted to and discharged from mental health facilities each year. Eight million people can expect to have professional help some time in their lives. People with mental health problems fill roughly 20 per cent of the beds in the NHS yet receive only 11 per cent of the resources.

If the "priority" groups are to remain a priority the balance in the debate must shift. Health care must be holistic. Hiving off long-term care to local authorities, as the leaked Griffiths report suggests (report, January 18) could lead to a "chronic" service purchased as cheaply as possible from the private and voluntary sectors. Such a move may free the NHS for privatisation, but what does it do for the health care of the most disabled and disadvantaged in society?

The saddest thing about the current debate is the eagerness with which commentators discuss new and ever more complex financing mechanisms with no reference back to the needs of the patient. Perhaps if we started by looking at the objectives of the service and what the current or potential patient actually needs we might get closer to effective answers.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS HEGINBOTHAM,
National Director,
MIND (the National Association for Mental Health),
22 Harley Street, W1,
February 29.

Funding of NHS

From the Chairman of the Tavistock Clinic
Sir, You gave much coverage (February 25) to the almost certain full funding by the Government of the nurses' pay award. The impression that this action alone will relieve the financial pressures, and therefore the resultant cuts in services, is sadly erroneous.

For example, the Tavistock Clinic is an NHS national training organisation with 1,000 students a year, many of them working in areas designated as priority by the present Government (prevention, child health, mental health promotion etc). 92.3 per cent of our entire budget is made up of staff salaries. Of this less than 3 per cent comprises nurses' salaries.

Any underfunding of pay awards, be they for doctors, psychologists, psychotherapists or other staff can only mean further drastic staff cuts with a devastating result on both services and training. We fully support the nurses' position. However, in our view, it is imperative that all staff pay awards (not only those for nurses) be fully funded by the Government.

Yours faithfully,
ANTON OBHOLZER, Chairman,
The Tavistock Clinic,
Tavistock Centre,
120 Belsize Lane, NW3.

to "put it in the back of the fire", which I later found out meant, in colloquial Scottish, to throw it away, but which I took literally.

I hooked the strap over the end of a poker and held it, carefully avoiding flames, as near the back of the fire as I could. After about a minute of "roasting" the watch went perfectly, and proceeded to do so for years — until I, and it, were run over by a taxi.

Yours faithfully,
MEG EDWARD-COLLINS,
Tregonna House,
Little Petherick,
Wadebridge, Cornwall.

From Mrs J. Halbritter
Sir, Some while ago, I, too, had an alarm clock that did not work, and I also remembered the "household hint" seen in a newspaper some 30 years ago (letter, February 18).

So, full of hope, I placed my clock in a saucepan of water and boiled it. Sadly, I have to report that my clock face boiled to pulp and the clock still would not go.

Your faithfully,
JOY HALBRITTER,
Plymouth House,
Llantwit Major,
South Glamorgan.

Child benefits on US TV

From the Chief Executive of Channel Four Television
Sir, I have just returned from the annual American television programme convention (NATPE), where I witnessed the following example of what the American market place is offering for their children's viewing: a game show in which schoolchildren compete for the top prize each week of \$25,000 in cash.

This antithesis of *Blue Peter* struck me as a telling argument against those who seek to dismantle the regulatory framework of British television, as we move into an exciting age of broadcasting expansion.

Yours,
MICHAEL GRADE,
Chief Executive,
Channel Four Television,
60 Charlotte Street, W1,
March 1.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 3 1919

Eamon De Valera (1882-1975) was President of the Republic of Ireland from 1959 to 1973. Lincoln was the second prison where he had been held; in 1916 a sentence of death passed on him had been commuted to penal servitude for life and he was later freed under an amnesty for political prisoners.

GIRL GRADUATES AS DECOYS.

A STORY OF DE VALERA'S ESCAPE.

Paris, Feb. 28. — Mr. O'Kelly, the Sinn Féin delegate now in Paris, relates the following tale regarding the escape of De Valera from Lincoln Prison:

After the midnight arrest of De Valera near his home at Graystones, he, with 12 comrades, was sent, to Lincoln Prison, other Sinn Féiners being distributed in order to avoid concentration in one goal. On account of De Valera's importance, the strictest watch was maintained upon him.

A meeting of the Republican members of the "Irish Parliament" was held on January 7, and another a week later, at which the matter of the Irish prisoners was discussed. A committee was appointed to take charge of the question of the release of their incarcerated comrades, and the first result of the committee's activity was the escape of De Valera. The committee selected a number of men for the job who had been proved faithful, and who were "not too timid in case of gun play." Their first task was to survey the prison, and to discover the possibilities of a coup de force. The prison lay in an isolated part of the town; the rear looked out on a large open space, and just outside the back gate was a small patch of ground, on which the prisoners were allowed to exercise under the supervision of guards. This space was surrounded by a series of barbed-wire entanglements. Several armed wardens watched the prisoners while out, and at sunset a force of military surrounded the prison. Because of this military force, it was decided that it would be unwise to try and rush the place for fear of loss of life and the probable death of De Valera.

The next move was to communicate with De Valera, which was very difficult. One Sinn Féiner, however, started working on a garden plot, of which there were several near the prison. He attracted De Valera's attention one day by singing a Sinn Féin song in Irish, in which he told the leader of the attempt to be made to rescue him. . . . and asked the leader to secure an impression of the key of the gate. . . .

The sentries about the rear of the prison were a grave menace to the plans. The committee tried to find girls in the neighbourhood who could be employed to influence the guards, but they did not know any, so finally they telegraphed to Dublin for two handsome young women, both highly cultured university graduates, who dressed themselves as shop girls and crossed the Channel. These girls deliberately set out to flirt with the soldier guards, and soon came to know most of them.

De Valera was informed by code in a letter that February 3 was the date set for his escape, and the procedure was outlined as much as possible. This little code had been arranged for just such an emergency before De Valera was imprisoned. . . .

At dusk, shortly after 4 o'clock, the Irish girls appeared and enticed the guards away from the rear of the prison as far as possible. Then two Sinn Féiners quickly cut a path through the barbed wire. An hour later De Valera, with Macgarry and Milroy, sauntered to the back gate. Their friends without crept up and opened the gate with the false key while the sentries "spooned" with the girls. A motor-car was waiting and De Valera was soon whisked away to London. . . .

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Glossy tribute

A few weeks after her marriage, an American dancer named Suzi Lovegrove discovered that she had contracted Aids from a bisexual lover some years previously. Her husband, an Australian rock group manager, remained unaffected, but their baby son was born with the virus. Wishing to do their bit to dispel prejudice, husband and wife co-produced *Suzi's Story* in conjunction with his 14-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.

Bought in by QED (BBC1), this was a glossy and rather macabre commercial for the power of family life, with relatives rallying round and looking on opportunistically to laud the dying woman's undoubted bravery. Given the film's techniques of slow motion, soulful voice-over and sappy music, much of it could have been used to advertise household products.

It was difficult to conceive of any fictional treatment of the story being better acted. Perhaps its greatest use in years to come will be as a record of the values to which the late 20th century appealed when confronted with the pressing need for commemoration. It may inaugurate a fashion for such valentianarian videos.

The task Henry Lincoln set himself in *Timewatch* (BBC2) was to unravel the romantic wishful thinking that surrounds the historical figure known as the man in the iron mask. What Voltaire and Dumas could not achieve by way of mythopoeia was handsomely supplemented by Hollywood.

This much might already have been known to the average viewer, who may also have struggled to concentrate on Mr Lincoln's monotonous filleting of the available evidence. It was certainly a curiosity of the first magnitude to see the author of the much-debated *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* wrestling with scholarly rectitude, as he castigated a library of theoretical works on the subject for their lack of intellectual integrity.

Martin Cropper

Food, drink and whimsy

CINEMA

Babette's Feast (U) Lumière

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing (15) Gate Notting Hill, Screen on the Hill, Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Barfly (18) Screen on the Green, Cannons Haymarket and Tottenham Court Road.

The vast audience that saw *Out of Africa* might well still remain unaware of what was really significant in the life of Karen Blixen: that, under her nom-de-plume of Isak Dinesen she became in time a fine writer and teller of tales. Gabriel Axel corrects the record with his faithful and exquisite adaptation of *Babette's Feast*. Like a lot of good literature, this short story was written to make money. Blixen wrote it for the American market. Rejected by *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Good Housekeeping* (who found its cuisine too sophisticated for American ladies) it was finally published by *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1950.

The story might have been meant as a screenplay: Axel's script hardly deviates by a line from the structure, incident and dialogue indicated in the original text. The only major change is to move the scene of the action from the remote mountains of Norway to the coast of Jutland. Here live two old ladies, who long ago were noted beauties, but spurned all suitors to dedicate themselves to the devout company of disciples founded by their father, the saintly Dean of the village.

Babette arrives one stormy night in 1881, a refugee from the Commune. The ladies take her on as unpaid cook — with misgivings, for everyone knows the French are a pagan race that eats frogs. For 14 years, however, Babette dutifully cooks their dried cod and bread-and-ale pudding, until the fateful day when she wins a lottery. She begs to donate and cook a French meal in honour of the late Dean's centenary.

There never was such a meal on the screen. Axel has collaborated with one of Copenhagen's most celebrated chefs, Jan Pedersen of *La Cocotte*, to realise Babette's feast just as Blixen imagined it.

The cool blues and grays and faded sepias of the early scenes give way to rich sensuous colours as the preparation and consumption of the epicurean banquet take over the screen: golden turtle soup, *Blinis* *Demidoff* glittering with caviare, and drifts of cream; Babette's masterpiece, *Caillou en Sarcophage*, quails stuffed with truffles, roast and flambée and laid

in state in pastry coffins, their heads nicely crisp.

A hand-picked assembly of wonderful, crusty old character players confront this banquet in a dogged but doomed battle with the temptations of the flesh. After all, perhaps it is not the devil's work. The wine and warmth melt hearts that have been turned cold and hard and mean by excess of proud piety. After the feast Babette's own secret is exposed, but it would be a shame to reveal it.

Babette is played by Stéphane Audran (once the wife of Claude Chabrol, a notable *bon vivant* and epicure). An alien in a foreign land, she speaks little but reveals much, with her rare sense of tragic-comedy, about the anguish of being deprived of the means of practising one's art, and the total triumph of fulfillment.

This near-perfect and exceptionally pleasurable film is a surprising late flowering by Gabriel Axel, now 70, whose best-known work previously was the spectacular *The Red Mantle*.

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing, Patricia Rozema's first film as producer, director and writer, was made for a pittance on 16mm and video, and has been a commercial hit around the world.

It too is about the different relationships to art of three women, vaguely in love with one another: Polly, an "organizationally impaired" secretary, who innocently admires everyone and is unaware of her own potential talent; Gabrielle, a pretentious gallery owner who longs vainly to have talent; and Mary Joseph, a painter quite free of pride in her own generous artistic gifts.

The film owes its charm and success less to the situation and the story, which is sometimes naive and clumsily developed, than to the central performance of Sheila McCarthy as Polly. I know people who find her fey and resistible, but for my taste she is a fine comedienne, extraordinarily supple and witty and endearing. Her performance alone makes the film worth seeing.

Barfly is the first screenplay by Charles Bukowski, the contemporary poet of Californian low life. Bukowski has a particular vogue in continental Europe, where the old American myth of the literary genius as alcoholic ruin (cf. Scott Fitzgerald, Norman Mailer) still exerts its romantic attraction; and *Barfly* has a French director, Barbet Schroeder.

Bukowski's characters move in an alcoholic haze. The story is autobiographical nostalgia about the bar-room nights of a young boozier (Mickey Rourke) who goes home to his garret, battered from brawling, to listen to Mozart and Mahler and compose purplish prose. He also reads Schopenhauer, and has the good fortune to find a soul-mate in a crazy lady alcoholic (Faye Dunaway) not to speak of a smart, slumming Beverly Hills literary groupie, ready both to ravish and publish him.

The saving of the film is that those concerned appear not to take Bukowski as seriously as he probably takes himself; and there is a strong sense of parody about the picturesquely seedy bars and rooming houses, their bleary habits and the literary language they tend to speak. The comedy is heightened by the eccentric performance of Mickey Rourke, who carries on like W.C. Fields playing the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

David Robinson



Preparing for the feast: Stéphane Audran (above) as Babette; Barfly's battered boozier, Mickey Rourke (below), prepares for another bout



PARIS THEATRE

Quite a change

La Métamorphose Gymnase

In the first French production of Steven Berkoff's now 20-year-old dramatization of Franz Kafka's work, Roman Polanski gives one of his most remarkable performances of his theatrical career. Berkoff directs and gives the production a precision and professional sheen that it could never have had with someone less knowing in charge.

As Kafka's ill-fated Gregoire Samsa, Polanski, at 55, has the physique, agility and stamina of a man half his age. There is a finely worked balletic quality in his entomological metamorphosis, when one day he finds himself transformed into a large beetle. It imbues his performance with a high-strung sensitivity that flows through his sinuous human carapace to tremble along the length of his invisible feelers.

If it is Polanski who produces the invigorating interpretive spark, it is Berkoff's direction that blows them into a fiercely burning continuous flame. Berkoff's theatre of the brutalized intellect is a completely unknown quantity in France. In addition, his highly stylized, staccato direction requires a mental and physical discipline, executed without a trace of self-consciousness.

Christiane Cohendy (Madame Samsa), Fod Personne (Monsieur Samsa), Fabienne Tricotet (Greta) and Jean-Paul Farris (officer manager/potential lodger) turn in high faultless performances, that vibrate with an intensity that one can almost taste.

There are also recognizable Berkoffian overtones in Roland Petit's design and the harmonics of Schmidt's costumes.

The only false note is the French text. Yasmina Reza's version emasculates the work's verbal ferocity. The fault, however, does not lie completely with Reza, but in the French language itself. Kafka's world is one that relentlessly barks at you. German and English are languages that have the capacity to nip cleanly at the heels of sentimentality. French is more suited to sarcastic purring.

Diane Hill

Dream world

THEATRE

The Anastasia File Hoo Theatre

First seen in Cambridge 10 years ago, well within its subject's life-time, Royce Rytton's play finally arrives in London (at this promising new pub theatre, 159 Farringdon Road) as an elegy for the woman who may have been the last survivor of the Romanovs.

Whether or not Anna Anderson was the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaevna is not Rytton's main point. He works through the medical evidence, and casts doubt on the official version of the Ekaterinburg murders.

However, all we get in the way of a conclusion is her statement: "I am who I am. I don't need to prove anything." With its echo of Swift's "I am what I am" this leaves open the possibility of madness. But, for the purposes of the play, it is enough that she believes her story.

Irving Wardle

Bleak lout-look

Hooligans Lost Theatre, Fulham

Jon Gaunt's tough and noisy 90-minute play sets out to give us a look-see into the motives of three rough and noisy louts. High energy performances suggest the fitful exuberance of their lives but the play slips out of focus whenever it tries to place the characters into a context of wider things.

The crude Leeds United skinhead in Tony Harrison's poem was given Harrison to argue with and put some sense into his crass deeds. Gaunt's Coventry City lot have only themselves.

So, in order to show how their lives might have been richer and what cheated them out of their inheritance (the upper classes, mostly), de-

serter Mick, film fan Baz and even air-brain Gez, articulate with almost poetic diction their perceptions of the better life.

Paul Nolan's Gez — an over-detailed performance of jerks and gibbering — cannot eat a doughnut without spewing most of it onto the carpet, yet will endeavour to explain the arcane satisfactions that come of stealing bakers' produce.

Baz (Robert Wilkinson) subtly distinguishes between the reality of Tintagel and its artistic representation so that it is impossible to accept him a few scenes later chanting slogans on the stand in Munich. Dave Findlay's Mick follows the more consistent course of disillusion with the army turning into a suicidal binge of fraud and mayhem.

Ear-blasting heavy metal music separates groups of scenes and the three cavort to it like a spasm gang, baring their butts to show outlaws' contempt for a paying audience. The dialogue is vigorously angry and aggressive and, amid the noise and smoke, a football riot is ingeniously suggested by a minimum of effects.

Jeremy Kingston

Sleek snobbery succeeds

NEW YORK THEATRE

Holly Hill reports from New York on two notable new stage productions

Broadway hasn't had a bona fide snob hit since *Travesties* took the Tony in 1976. A snob hit is an intellectual (or pseudo-intellectual) play which boasts no box-office stars, its lure being based on intelligence/social-climbing.

People go to see it because they think or are told that they should and, whether they understand or enjoy the experience, they can flash it like a cultural merit badge.

Inspired by a real-life walk in the woods by a Russian and an American negotiator, which resulted in an imaginative but unratified nuclear arms treaty in 1982, Blessing shows four perambulators in the Swiss woods during four seasons of arms agreement talks.

The weary Russian (Robert Prosky) knows that they are largely pawns in a superpower game with which he is disillusioned and bored; he is looking for human contact more than political advantage. His younger American counterpart (Sam Waterston), a self-described "serious, stiff, priggish" idealist, wants to keep a professional distance and get on with the work.

As the play progresses under Des McAnuff's fluid direction, the talk ranges from humorous ("No-one speaks 'technical' Russian. It's like saying 'I speak algebra.'") to high-minded ("Aren't you embarrassed to be an American? I am to be a Russian. The world's two great powers. The world's great fools.")

The negotiators schematically breach each other's de-



Sam Waterston (standing) and Robert Prosky in negotiations

fences and each takes career risks to get treaties approved. Politics as usual prevail, however, and the play acquires the shape of *Waiting for Godot* in a realistic mode, with the Russian as Estragon, the American as Vladimir, and the ever-elusive treaty as Godot.

The play is generally engrossing without losing the impression of originality or depth. Robert Prosky's grizzled Russian with a pumpkin smile is affable, but with a hint of danger, in the manner of a brown bear.

Sam Waterston, with his qualities of rock-ribbed integrity and youthful exuberance, carries the straight-man role with a grace which suggests that he is the successor to Henry Fonda as the quintessentially American actor.

A more impressive attempt at mixing theatre and political concerns is downtown at the Public Theater. The last play of Larry Shue (*The Foreigner*, *The Knot*) hints at the breadth of talent he might have developed had not a 1985 plane crash killed him in his thirties. *Wenceslas Square* is a drama about people in relation to art and politics.

A professor who visited Prague shortly after the Russians had ended the Czech spring, but not yet killed its theatre, has written a book and returns five years later with a student-photographer to gather material for a last chapter. The professor and student are constant figures; a large gallery of Czechs and a narrator are skillfully played by Victor Garber (who as narrator represents the grown-up student) and Dana Ivey.

At an attenuated pace, the visitors find the theatre all but dead and its artists departed in fact or spirit.

As a once brilliant actor turned hack television star explains: "One day you have achieved a certain status and have choice. The next day a letter comes down and you are supervised. You never know why. If you are absolutely careful you do nothing from then on." The professor realizes that he must choose between publishing his book and endangering the Czechs whom he documented, or burying it with his dreams.

The impact of *Wenceslas Square* is undercut by the actor playing the professor, who comes off more as a dumb jerk than a decent intellectual, and the play gives the impression of a draft Shue might have refined. For all its raw edges, however, it gathers a momentum which feels closer to life and truth than the sleeker *A Walk in the Woods*.

PETER CUNNINGHAM



Multiple roles: Bruce Norris (left) and Jonathan Hadary in Larry Shue's study of Czech theatre in retreat, *Wenceslas Square*

Smoky subtlety

CONCERTS

Tokyo Quartet Wigmore Hall

Much the best musical reward on this occasion was confined to the second part of the programme, when the Tokyo Quartet put Mozart and Beethoven behind them and turned their attention to Debussy. Not just the Oriental influences that lurk close below the surface in certain passages, notably the second movement scherzo with its scurrying pizzicato, but the generally sharper colours and contours were better suited to their style.

As an ensemble their phrasing and emphasis is as closely matched as the four 17th century Amati instruments on loan to them, and these are the secret of their unified and distinctively smoky tone quality that can quickly turn pungent.

In Debussy's often trance-like slow movement the playing combined subtle shading with absolute rhythmic security even when time itself

seems suspended, and the music's method of extended variation was firmly and clearly deployed.

The corresponding movement in Beethoven's E-flat Quartet, Op 127, benefited the most in the players' masterly control of dynamics and shading, and in threading superbly sustained lines in weaving the overall texture.

Elsewhere in the work a nervily tense manner of performance prevailed, at a far extreme from the blandness that was brought to Mozart's D minor Quartet (K 421) at the beginning of the programme. By the time Mozart had run its course it seemed questionable whether there was much more than note-spinning involved.

Noël Goodwin

Rare animation

Coming Of A New Age QEH/Purcell Room

The stranger on my right wondered if concerts in England were always like this. Not quite. To celebrate the 21st birthday of their smaller halls, the South Bank Board has assembled a Chinese banquet of a programme, lasting four hours, and served in the two auditoria alternately.

It would be nice if something like this level of animation could be achieved more regularly, and less synthetically.

At the start, the New London Consort shared the Purcell Room platform with *Les Musiciens du Nil*, both groups perhaps exaggerating their showbiz presentation for the occasion.

A set of 13th century Spanish songs brought back the winsomeness of 1960s folk bands to the life, and the Egyptians also had their easy audience-grabbing techniques. The juxtaposition of the two ensembles was visually striking, but it encouraged one to jump to bland conclusions.

Next were two period pieces

Queen Elizabeth Hall: *Haffner Symphony*, by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Gerd Altkemper and Tippett's *Sonata For Duo*, a work undeniably dated to the time when these halls were new, performed by Howard Haskin with the London Sinfonietta under Andrew Davis.

The Mozart showed some of the less charming features of antiquarian style in the often raw violin tone and the distant, unnecessary harpsichord in particular annoyance in the slow movement, but the vigorous presto of the finale was cheering, and the strong wind gave the piece an unusual fullness of tone.

There was strength too in the Sinfonietta's playing, enough to outshoot at times the amiable performance of Haskin.

Then it was back to the Purcell Room for Jonathan Harvey's *Motus Plango* and a breezy, funny, exotic band-mime by David Glass, followed by the National Theatre Studio's supremely accomplished production of the Britwistle-Harrison *Bow Down*.

Paul Griffiths

Poet
Peter Ackroyd
of a perfectionist

Beaver

The tyrant

ART GALLERY

BOOKS

Poet and black dog

Peter Ackroyd reviews the biography of a perfectionist obsessive writer

It is easy to dismiss Sylvia Plath as a minor poet who was promoted into the pantheon of great moderns solely as a result of her suicide; easy but wrong. The great virtue of this not very imaginative biography is to cast respect as much as sympathy for a writer who all her life was perched on the cliff of her own unhappiness. Waiting for the right moment to jump.

It was her father who unwittingly killed her; he died when she was eight years old, and his sudden absence provoked in her a sense of loss so deep that nothing in the world could fill it. The young Sylvia had a horror of being abandoned, of being unloved, and as a result she became very careful, very good, very conscientious. She was an ideal student - what the Americans call "motivated" - and an ideal daughter. In other words she was thoroughly messed up from an early age, and even while at school she was invaded by what her biographer calls a "sense of dependence and narcissism". Plath herself wrote, at the age of 15, "Never never never will I reach the perfection I long for."

So she was a perfectionist, but she was also an obsessive, and this is a most dangerous combination: when one thing breaks down, everything breaks down with it. "She didn't like surprises," Linda Wagner-Martin explains in one of those asides which are actually more revealing than any formal analysis. "Anything unexpected unnerved her." Not that this would necessarily show and, as is suggested here, "Sylvia's writing expressed feelings she did not allow herself to admit otherwise."

She succeeded as far as possible while at Smith College, and her record as a student there was exemplary. But even at the time none of her achievements really mattered to her once they had been accomplished: all she understood was the striving towards some distant end, each temporary goal becoming empty as soon as it was attained. That is why she was preoccupied with suicide even as she was gaining academic distinction: "Everything is empty," she wrote to her mother, "meaningless." At the age of 20 she took an overdose of sleeping pills, and was not found for two days. She survived, but she was forced to undergo electric shock treatment of so barbaric a kind that it is hard to believe it was being employed less than 40 years ago. Her biographer suggests that her psychological flaw lay in the fact that she felt herself to be deeply unlovable, and that she needed success to bolster her self-esteem; but it goes down further than that - much deeper and darker. Guilt, fear of herself, shame, the horror of bursting open - of being split open to reveal the mess and chaos inside - these were the

traumatic anxieties from which she suffered.

But for a writer, perhaps, this state of fearfulness has its compensations - not only does her best poetry have the vivid pulsatory quality of signals being transmitted out of darkness, but, in addition, her fears made her, as Linda Wagner-Martin suggests, "competitive and always aware of markets and marketability". She was never the misunderstood or neglected young genius she was publishing her poetry in glossy magazines almost as soon as she started writing it. She was even distressed by the thought of Adrienne Rich, two years her senior, being more successful than she was.

The traumatized are not necessarily very agreeable. In other words: she arrived at Cambridge University on a Fulbright fellowship in 1955, and her contemporaries at Newnham noted that she could be cold, aggressive, prepared to befriend only those who could help her career or confirm her own sense of herself as a sexually attractive and marriageable young woman. But this was also an aspect of her helplessness: her biographer makes a claim for her feminism "in a broad sense," but this is open to question. Her dead father was the dominant person in her life, and perhaps it was her reliance upon men which eventually destroyed her. Her marriage to Ted Hughes, while she was still at Cambridge, was at first a happy one. But

person in her life, and perhaps it was her reliance upon men which eventually destroyed her. Her marriage to Ted Hughes, while she was still at Cambridge, was at first a happy one. But

the union of writers is rarely a success - the twin imperatives of work and love soon clash with each other and it is generally the work that wins, leaving envy and even bitterness in its wake. Yet there is something peculiarly disagreeable about writing on the subject of a marriage when one of the partners is still alive, and all one can say with certainty is that there seemed to be three levels to her life in these final years: her ordinary existence, in which she was characteristically seen as the wife of Ted Hughes; her writing, which was gradually receiving more attention; and her deep psychological unease which she mentions only in her private journals, but which sometimes became apparent in bizarre or difficult behaviour. Living on three levels is not easy, and there came a time when Sylvia Plath began slipping through all of them.

At the end of her short life she was alone in a rented London flat with two children, lonely and depressed and defeated. When one remembers the young woman who had tried to commit suicide 10 years before, one can see what might happen. It was a very cold winter. She was 30 years old. She was too fragile to live. One of her last poems ends with the line, "Daddy, daddy you bastard, I'm through." She put cups of milk beside her children, and then knelt in front of a gas oven.

SYLVIA PLATH
By Linda W. Wagner-Martin
Chatto & Windus, £12.95



GLYN BOYD HART

Beaver's boy in the gutter

Bob Edwards started life with his father dying. Then he found out that his father was not married to his mother. The crash in her income and the humiliation of having her treasured respectability ripped from her eventually drove his mother into schizophrenia from which she never recovered.

It drove Bob Edwards forward with the ambition to rise to fortune by the journalism which already fascinated him, and to become the editor of the *Daily Express* (which he did when aged 36). It also gave him a profound sense of injustice, turning him into a natural Socialist. He soon left the grammar school, and the snobbish editor of *The Reading Mercury*, impressed by his mother's inaccurate information that he was a public school boy, hired him.

The poignant start to the book is the more moving because it has no self-pity, but flashes with the humour and hilarity which sparkle ever faster to the end. After RAF service it was via *Tribune* and Nye Bevan, whose brilliance dazzled him and whose grand living shocked him, and the enduringly lovable Michael Foot that he came to be Fleet Street trained on the sensation-seeking *People*, specialist in exposures of dirty dealings, then brilliantly edited by Sam Campbell "who regarded truth as dispensable if he could improve a quote or a story". An association between the attractive, talented young Bob Edwards and the elderly, still exciting Beaverbrook was now inevitable.

The long passages describing it are enchanting. It began with leader writing for the *Evening Standard* which Bob, like Michael Foot before him, just managed to reconcile with his Labour conscience, as Beaverbrook delighted in slating any Tory government of which he was not a member. Bob found in him the father he never had, while Beaverbrook

Woodrow Wyatt
GOODBYE FLEET STREET



By Robert Edwards
Cape, £12.95

preferred him to his own son, causing discussion between the two. By way of remorseful compensation, at times Beaverbrook was harsh with Bob beyond reason. "Do you mind, Bob, if I attack you in front of your wife?" he asked, furious over an article about Scrooge on Christmas when the Edwardses were staying with him in the South of France during Bob's first spell as *Daily Express* editor. Beaverbrook hurled the paper at his feet explaining, "so that I can pick it up and throw it down again". The unfortunate writer was sacked, but it was a mild row compared to most.

Beaverbrook, bombarding his editors with insulting memos and conspiring with their subordinates against them, could be devilish, but was never a devil. A newspaper genius, people interested him intensely and he

cared about those he liked with perceptive sympathy, particularly when trouble hit them. That is why most who knew the wise, mischievous, and charming Beaverbrook well loved him and still do.

The contrast shows starkly against Bob Edwards' last proprietor, the tough union tamer and business man, but ludicrously vain, comical, and uncouth exhibitionist, Robert Maxwell, longing hopelessly for affection and esteem, while tramping over his staff and his own newspapers. What a fool he was not to make himself agreeable enough to prevent Bob Edwards retiring at 60. This is one of the best and funniest autobiographies I have read, written way above the journalists over which the editor presided for most of a remarkable career, conducted with kindness, decency, courage, and enjoyment.

NEW BOOKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

A Mind of Her Own, by Susan Quinn (Macmillan, £16.95) Biography of Karen Horney, who changed the face of analysis, challenged Freud's view of women, and whose ideas form the psychological base of modern feminism.
And The Band Played On, by Randy Shilts (Viking, £15.95, Penguin, £8.95) The AIDS epidemic, politics, and people.
Letters of Marshall McLuhan, edited by Marie Molinaro, Corinne McLuhan, & William Toye (Oxford, £25).
Nikumar and Ghana, by Kofi Buenor Hadjor (Kegan Paul International, £20) Former press aide on the phenomenon.
The Garden City Utopia, by Robert Beavers (Macmillan, £27.50) Life of Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of town planning.
The Indian Army and the King's Enemies 1900-1947, by Charles Chenevix Trench (Thames & Hudson, £18.95).
The Oriental Obsession, by John Sweetman (Cambridge, £37.50) Islamic inspiration on our art and architecture.
Writing in the Margin, by Paul Julian Smith (Oxford, £25) Survey of the literature of the Spanish Renaissance or Golden Age, offering new interpretations of the texts.

Cliché by cliché of Tsar as Babar

Richard Cobb

PETER THE GREAT
By Henri Troyat
Translated by Joan Plakham
Hamish Hamilton, £15.95

This is a pretty bad book by any account: trite, gossipy, and cliché-ridden, the narrative is sustained by regular injections of a sort of macabre jollity. We hear of "free-wheeling stag parties", "a good bender", "a giant blow-out", "nothing was better than a good binge", "between binges", "every ship launching was an excuse for a good bash".

Callicisms abound: Peter was "a force of nature", his mother has "a mat complexion", Peter's face is "shaken with tics", later he is "at the end of his rope".

The clichés fly in thick formations: "Here beat the heart of the nation" [the Kremlin]; the Church "formed a state within a state"; "Ancient Moscow was already bowing its head"; "The palace was a ship in distress"; "Dragging Russia out of her torpor"; "If Russia was going to stride boldly forward, she couldn't be all tangled up in finery dating from Boris Godunov".

All the principal characters in the book obligingly do a great deal of thinking out loud: "A great city, he said to himself, could rise out of this murky nothingness" (no marks for guessing which). "It gave Alexis gooseflesh to think of it." "His elastic mind bounced from one subject to

another." While this was going on, "Alexis's mind was in turmoil".

Then there are the questions, some of them answered, others left in the air: "Fat Catherine? No." "Wouldn't his father take offence? No." "Did he have any idea at that moment that he was laying the foundations of his future capital?" (No answer). "And to whom would the crown go now?" (Creak creak).

There are also unexpected hints, in a chronicle of utter rubbishness, of the more peaceable festivities of *Le Roi Babar*: "King Frederick Wilhelm the First and the Queen of Prussia gave a gracious welcome at the castle to the illustrious travellers and their large suite."

Much, we are told, can be attributed to "the Slavic tendency to excess". There is a reference to "soft, mad Turkey", another to "the gentle Natalya". Two adjectives are even better than one: "In his veins flowed the blood of the weak, pious Eudoxia." When

travelling, and there is a great deal of that, generally over vast distances, it is always on "sodden roads" over which the light-postchaises "jolted along". Poor Alexis (of the Veins), on his Grand Tour, is granted, at least one small consolation: "a splendid view, Vesuvius, the blue expanse of the sea".

We are spared nothing, it is all there, Tableau by Tableau: the two Marriages, the Sirey, Prokhorovskiy, the War Games ("with these bastions of merry lads"), Scissors and Beards, the Carpenter of Zaandam, the Mess in John Evelyn's House, Wielding the Axe, Lifting the King of France, the Marshes, The Window on the West, *Miri Miri*, the Succession, the Mice and the Cat. Peter died at 53. For 53 years I have been reading about Peter. Reading about him in Henri Troyat carried tired, jaded memories of some hundreds of undergraduate essays read to me. In the 1930s discerning people took as a general rule never to read a book written by a member of the French Academy (it was wise, too, to avoid any book that had been *couronné par l'Académie Française*, a useful trade mark of avoidance). On the present showing, the rule certainly still holds. The Bronze Horseman deserved better than this.

Office life crises

FICTION

John Nicholson

INCENTIVES
By Clare Nonhebel
Century, £11.95

PAUSE BETWEEN ACTS
By Mavis Cheek
The Bodley Head, £10.95

SIMON'S BUG
By Richard Quick
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH MARY JANE?
By Daisy Waugh
Heinemann, £10.95

On the surface, *Incentives* is a book peopled by stereotypes acting out clichés. But the essence of Clare Nonhebel's art is to make the mundane remarkable. She won the Betty Task Award with her first novel, *Cold Showers*. Her third book represents another abrupt change of milieu and perspective. It will ring true to anyone with experience of corporate life, and it confirms Miss Nonhebel's position as one of the most versatile storytellers of her generation.

Mavis Cheek is another young writer who seems to have cracked the conundrum of how to write decent novels

with popular appeal. I have to confess this is pure surmise, since *Pause Between Acts* is her first novel. Perhaps it will sink without trace, but I'd bet good money against it. Miss Cheek's choice of subject matter - life after divorce - may not be overly original, and *Eng. Lit. reviews* might legitimately raise an eyebrow at one or two aspects of the book's construction. But she writes with such robust good humour and startling assurance that it's impossible not to be hijacked by this saga of dramatic, amateur and otherwise, in West London and Edinburgh.

Daisy Waugh is surely too well brought up to make this kind of blunder. She may even be a little too well-educated for her own good, at least for the purposes of her first novel. What is the matter with *What Is The Matter With Mary Jane?* is that its author is so intent on submerging her own cleverness in order to write about stupid people that she loses track of the more important objective of keeping the punter happy. She may well have interesting things to communicate about the impact on families of the slimmer's disease, anorexia nervosa - the book's ostensible theme. But her observations on contemporary metropolitan mores are disappointingly jejune. And while the sloppily sung editorial tone she adopts may well be the voice of Yuppies, it is irritating - as Miss Waugh no doubt intends - and distracting - which she presumably does not. Truly a Cautionary Tale.

Boffin's travels

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

FANTASTIC VOYAGE II
Destination Brain
By Isaac Asimov
Grafton, £10.95

fighting off corpuscles galore: a perplexed Everyman in a white coat. A man, certainly, without the sex-appeal of Raquel Welch. But her ability to raise blood-pressure would have made a bumpy ride.

● To Sail Beyond The Sunset, by Robert A. Heinlein (*Michael Joseph*, £11.95). At the age of 80 Mr Heinlein is still the maverick-master following no trends, flouting all fashion. Here he's first-person narrating as flame-haired Maureen Johnson, born in 19th-century Missouri, and proceeding through time, space, and a lot

of love affairs to breed a world or two. The author has never held back on the gush, but the enthusiasm is irresistible.

● Spider World: The Delta, by Colin Wilson (*Grafton*, £10.95). A further strand of the saga-web - you can almost smell the exotic fœnic acid - keeping up the momentum with that basic of much fantasy: the quest. Niall and beetle-companions head for the region from where the Spider Lord's power is supposed to emanate. Despite the length, it's a nervy scuffle of a read.

● Ghoul, by Michael Slade (*W.H. Allen*, £10.95). It's slasher-time again, folks, in as alarming a piece of Canadian Gothic as I've read in many a black moon, exploring the relationship between London murderers, a crazed Rhode Island family. Doesn't mind a laugh or two, so that it treats a perverted fantastic with droll skill.

The tyrant's court

Alexander Johnson

RED HORIZONS
By Ion Mihai Pacepa
Heinemann, £12.95

Romania's president Nicolae Ceausescu has had a bad time over the last few months, and the publication of these memoirs will not make things any better. General Ion Pacepa, former chief of Romanian security service, who defected to the United States in 1978, has given us an intimate portrait of the kind of barny tyranny that provoked the recent violence at Brazov. In fact, a good subtitle for the work might be, "I Was A Loony Dictator's Yes Man."

The title is taken from

description of his rage when he learned that President Carter had gumped him to lead the peace process in the Middle East.

The president is seen ordering assassinations, plotting to steal technology, and periodically dancing with anger when things go wrong. As a picture of an East European dictatorship, the book is fresh and enjoyable. But the author remains an ambiguous figure, and the reasons for his eventual defection are far from convincing.



What happens when a wise and gullible one-time cannibal enters the maelstrom of Manhattan?

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TAMA JANOWITZ



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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceefax** AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.40 **Ray** in *Ranch House* (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Breakfast** Time with John Stapleton and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30.
- 9.00 **News** and weather followed by *Open Air*. *Patricial Colwell* receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television output 9.30 *Kitty*. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on working mothers. The guest is *Lucinda Lambton*.
- 10.00 **News** and weather followed by *Go! Gold* (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and children's greetings followed by *Play School*, presented by Mike Amis, Janet Palmer and Chloe Ashcroft, and *The Wombles* (r).
- 10.55 *Elle Wille* 11.00 **News** and weather followed by *Open Air* from Kentish Town police station where members of the Metropolitan Police give their views on the way police are depicted on television. To contribute ring 061-814 0424.
- 12.00 **News** and weather followed by *Daytime Live* which includes a report on British pensioners who spend the winter months in Spain 12.45 **Regional** news and weather.
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Paul drops a bombshell to Helen and the battle lines are drawn up; and Charlotte and Jane decide to become "Swans" after meeting Warwick Capper 1.50 *Going for Gold*. European general knowledge quiz presented by Henry Kelly.
- 2.15 **Film**: *The Hellfire Club* (1960) starring Keith Michell, Adrienne Cori and Peter Cushing. Upset by her husband's behaviour as leader of the Hellfire Club, Lady Netherfield leaves him, taking their young son, Jason, with her. Years later Jason returns to discover he has been usurped by his villainous cousin. Directed by Robert S. Baker and Monty Berman.
- 3.50 *Henry's Cat* (r). 4.10 *SuperTed* (r). 4.15 *Jackanory*. Liza Goddard with *Little Mabel Saves the Day* (r). 4.30 *Around the World With Willy Fog*.
- 4.55 **Newsround** 5.05 *Blue Peter* 5.35 *Neighbours* (r).
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. 6.35 *London Plus*.
- 7.00 **Top of the Pops** 7.30 *EastEnders*. Pat suspects that Ken is up to no good - as usual. (Continues from last night).
- 8.00 *Tomorrow's World* includes a report by Peter Macnann from Northern Ireland on a new method of tree propagation. The specialist subjects are Woody Herman; Victoria Sachville-West; the novels of Charles Dickens; and the history of London 1800-1939.
- 9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 *All the Best of Dave Allen*, a selection of sketches from the award-winning comedy series *Dave Allen at Large*.
- 10.00 *Question Time*. Sir Robin Day's guests are Susan Crossland and M.P.s Michael Heseltine, David Owen and Dennis Skinner.
- 11.00 *The Untouchables* (b/w). Eliot Ness and his team battle with a drug gang who want to turn *Calum City*, Illinois, into a narcotics centre.
- 11.50 **Weather**.

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University**. Until 7.20.
- 9.00 **Ceefax**.
- 9.30 **Daytime** on Two basic Spanish language skills 9.52 *Tudor houses* 10.15 **Science**: *cleaning 10.35 What the Editor* 10.55 *What the Editor* 11.00 *Thinkabout* 11.15 *A Day in the life of a Victorian child* 11.35 *Too Nice for Half*, a drama about a boy who resorts to drugs 12.05 **Science**: *electronic* 12.25 *A discussion on a major issue of the week* 12.50 **Music**: *harmony* 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a programme about water.
- 2.15 **Alison**. A documentary profiling 18-year-old spastic Alison French (r).
- 3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Wild World*: *Gobins of the Forest* (r).
- 3.50 **News** and weather.
- 4.00 *Catchword* with Paul Cole.
- 4.30 *Day Out* with Angela Rippon in *Wiltshire* (r). 5.00 *Peasants*. *Thomas* and *Sarah* talk about the things he enjoys most (r). 5.30 *Holiday* 88 (r).
- 6.00 *Battlestar Galactica*. Space age adventures 6.50 *Popeye Classics* (b/w).
- 7.00 *Cover to Cover*. Jill Neville and her guest, Jamaican writer Olive Senior, discuss the biographies of Sylvia Plath and Jamaica Kincaid.
- 7.30 *The Education Programme* examines the Black Report.
- 8.00 *Out of Court* investigates the legality of the insurance policies offered to drivers who they are disqualified through drink/driving they can claim money to cover taxis or chauffeurs.
- 8.30 *Nature* includes a report on the beach racketeers of the Costa del Sol.
- 9.00 *Dogland* and the *Carmarthen Cowboy*. The penultimate episode of the comedy and Gwyneth is becoming suspicious.
- 9.30 *40* *Cabaret at the Jangle*. Stand-up club comedians.
- 10.10 **Newsround** 11.30 **Weather** 11.40 **Open University**. Ends at 12.05am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with cartoons from 6.30 and 8.00 for half-an-hour. *Good Morning Britain*. After Nine includes a discussion on compulsive overeating.
- 9.25 **Thames** news.
- 9.30 *Give Us a Cue*. Celebrity changes 10.00 *Santa Barbara* 10.25 **News**.
- 10.30 *The Time... The Place...* Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 *Puddle Lane*. Puppet series for the young 11.35 **Thames** news headlines.
- 11.30 *Hometown*. Roy Hudd is in Southampton to hear tales of the great liners from people who travelled on them and help build them 12.00 *The Saturday*. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.
- 12.30 **News** with Julia Somerville 12.50 **Thames** news.
- 1.00 *What's My Line?* (r). Occupations panel game presented by Penelope Keith 1.30 *Falcon Crest*. Drama serial starring Jane Wollan as the mistress of a California dynasty 2.25 *Home Cookery*. Virginia Casselero.
- 2.30 *All Our Yesterdays* presented by Bernard Braden features the 1963 Ideal Home Exhibition 3.00 **News**. Rag trade drama serial 3.25 **Thames** news headlines 3.50 *Some of the Best*. Australian family drama serial.
- 4.00 *Cremes Crawlers*. Paul Nicholas with the story of *The Tall Tales* 4.30 *Fun*. Young children's entertainment.
- 4.45 *Demis*. Cartoon series 4.50 *Erasmus Milnerman*. The first of a new series in which two young people are taken to meet great scientists of the past, beginning with Archimedes. (Oracle).
- 5.15 **Thames** news. Quiz game presented by Sue Robble.
- 5.45 **News** with Alastair Stewart 5.50 **Thames** news.
- 6.30 **Emmerdale Farm**. Annes and Wilks battle over the house.
- 7.00 **Sporting** changes presented by Nick Owen. Jimmy Greaves, Tessa Sanderson and Andy Gray are joined by Nigel Mansell, Jack Brabham and Eric Burrows.
- 7.30 *Just for Laughs*. A compilation of clips from comedy films (r).
- 8.00 *Buonanotte*. Travel quiz game for teams.
- 8.30 *The Week's Besting* the *Palestinians*. Peter Greaves investigates cases of Israeli army brutality as they crack down on the present Palestinian unrest.
- 9.00 *L. A. Law*. Drama serial set in a high-powered Los Angeles law firm.
- 10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Carol Barnes 10.30 **Thames** news.
- 10.35 *The City Politician*. Robert Alexander, QC, defends the takeover panel he chairs but concedes that changes will have to be made.
- 11.05 *A Problem*. A critical guide to the capital's entertainment scene. Followed by *Crimespotter*.
- 11.35 *Snack*. Highlights of the last quarter-final of the MIM Britannia British Open.
- 12.15 *Team Match*. Cricket. New Zealand v England in Wellington.
- 12.45 *A Problem*. A critical guide to the capital's entertainment scene. Followed by *Crimespotter*.
- 1.15 *The Twilight Zone*. Two tales of the supernatural (r).
- 2.00 **News** headlines followed by *Film: The Manitou* (1977) starring Tony Curtis and Susan Strasberg. A surgeon performing an operation on a strange, fast-growing tumour on a young woman's neck has his work mysteriously disrupted. Directed by William Goldier.
- 4.00 **News** headlines followed by *Too Close for Comfort*. Comedy 4.30 *America's Top Ten* 5.00 **ITN Morning News**. Ends 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 **Schools**.
- 12.00 **Business Daily**.
- 12.30 *Young Children's* entertainment.
- 1.00 **Women: The Way Ahead**. Programme three of the five-part series for women returning to full or part-time work (r). (Oracle).
- 1.30 *The Welfare*. Part eight examines the crucial task of pricing a product (r). (Oracle).
- 2.00 *The Parliament Programme*.
- 2.30 *Women in View* (r).
- 3.00 *Snack*. Two quarter-finals of the MIM Britannia British Open.
- 4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*. Fast moving general knowledge quiz.
- 5.00 *Film: A Run For Money* (1944, b/w) starring Al Guinness, Donald Houston and Meredith Edwards. Comedy about the adventures of two Welsh miners in London for the England/Wales rugby match at Twickenham. Directed by Charles Friend.
- 6.30 *The Sharp End*. Magazine series about issues in the workplace.
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.
- 7.50 **Comment and Weather**.
- 8.00 *Take Six Cooks*. The third course - fish - is prepared by a team of six, a Norwegian who cooks at the Altham Hotel in Ullapool, west Scotland.
- 8.30 *Theresa Hunt*. Anika Rice (Oracle).
- 9.30 *Film on Four*. *Dance With a Stranger* (1985) starring Miranda Richardson, Rupert Everett, Ian Holm and Stuart Johns. Drama, based on fact, about the events that led Ruth Ellis to the scaffold in July 1955. Directed by Mike Newell. (Oracle).
- 11.25 *Yan Yel*. An award-winning documentary about Papua New Guinea's independence celebrations of 1975, filmed by Dennis O'Rourke.
- 12.25 *Film: Life is a Bed of Roses* (1983) starring Vittorio Gassman and Geraldine Chaplin. Three stories, one set in 1914, another in the present, the third a fairy tale, each based in a baroque setting. Directed by Roman Polanski. In French with English subtitles. Ends 2.30.

Jolly good journeying

TELEVISION CHOICE

● Ostensibly covering a journey along the Great North Road, Jonathan Gill's film for 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm) is really an excuse for an anthology of British eccentricity, presented with unquenchable enthusiasm ("My God, isn't this exciting?") by Lucinda Lambton. Ms Lambton's relentlessly jolly style may not be to all tastes, but I think I can forgive her almost anything, even a reference to *Sithon*, that prince of cheeses, as a "rather violent delicacy". Setting off from London in her little red Japanese car, she is soon talking to an old lady in Hornsey who has turned her modest terraced house into a surreal fantasy of painted eyes, masks and octopi. In a Bedfordshire churchyard, she finds buried, in the same tomb, the originals for Long John Silver and Peter Pan's Wendy. There is a Gothic ruin in Yorkshire and a vast black Porthleven erected in memory of her 19th century ancestor.



Lucinda Lambton: she takes to the Great North Road in tonight's 40 Minutes film on BBC2, at 9.30pm

she enters the oyster bar of the Café Royal and bumps into two portly, middle-aged Americans who turn out to be pop idols she first met at King's Cross 28 years before. Of course, the meeting is hardly an accident. Very little television is. But like everything else in this thoroughly diverting film, Ms Lambton almost makes you believe it.

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see Radio 1).
6.30 **Adrian John** 7.30 **Mike Smith's Breakfast Show** 9.30 **News** 10.30 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.30 **News** 12.45 **Gary Davies** 3.00 **Steve Wright** 4.30 **Newsbeat** (r) 5.45 **Bravo** 7.30 **Simon Mayo** 8.00 **Substance** (1) 1. Remember When We Were Young 10.00-12.00 **Andy Kershaw** 1.30 **Radio 1** and 2-4.00am **Radio 2** 4.00am **As Radio 1** 12.00-4.00am **As Radio 2**.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see Radio 1).
6.30 **Adrian John** 7.30 **Mike Smith's Breakfast Show** 9.30 **News** 10.30 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.30 **News** 12.45 **Gary Davies** 3.00 **Steve Wright** 4.30 **Newsbeat** (r) 5.45 **Bravo** 7.30 **Simon Mayo** 8.00 **Substance** (1) 1. Remember When We Were Young 10.00-12.00 **Andy Kershaw** 1.30 **Radio 1** and 2-4.00am **Radio 2** 4.00am **As Radio 1** 12.00-4.00am **As Radio 2**.

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times are given in GMT.
6.00 **News** 6.30 **News** 7.00 **News** 7.30 **News** 8.00 **News** 8.30 **News** 9.00 **News** 9.30 **News** 10.00 **News** 10.30 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.30 **News** 12.00 **News** 12.30 **News** 1.00 **News** 1.30 **News** 2.00 **News** 2.30 **News** 3.00 **News** 3.30 **News** 4.00 **News** 4.30 **News** 5.00 **News** 5.30 **News** 6.00 **News** 6.30 **News** 7.00 **News** 7.30 **News** 8.00 **News** 8.30 **News** 9.00 **News** 9.30 **News** 10.00 **News** 10.30 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.30 **News** 12.00 **News** 12.30 **News** 1.00 **News** 1.30 **News** 2.00 **News** 2.30 **News** 3.00 **News** 3.30 **News** 4.00 **News** 4.30 **News** 5.00 **News** 5.30 **News** 6.00 **News** 6.30 **News** 7.00 **News** 7.30 **News** 8.00 **News** 8.30 **News** 9.00 **News** 9.30 **News** 10.00 **News** 10.30 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.30 **News** 12.00 **News** 12.30 **News** 1.00 **News** 1.30 **News** 2.00 **News** 2.30 **News** 3.00 **News** 3.30 **News** 4.00 **News** 4.30 **News** 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Power sale 'offers real gains'

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

Privatization of the electricity industry offers "real benefits" for consumers, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, told MPs yesterday as he announced plans to sell off Scotland's two Electricity Boards.

The two existing Scottish power boards — the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board — are to be floated separately, but they will have joint ownership of Scotland's nuclear stations, at present operated by the SSEB.

Mr Rifkind, whose Commons statement followed last week's announcement about the break-up and sale of the electricity industry in England and Wales, brought angry protests from Labour MPs.

Mr Rifkind said in his statement there was significant over-capacity in the Scottish electricity system which could be used to export electricity to England and Wales to the benefit of buyer and seller.

He also said he would be inviting the two boards to examine a "modest reallocation" of their existing assets to create a satisfactory balance between them.

Mr Rifkind told the Commons: "My proposals for privatization will help secure even greater efficiency in the supply of electricity in Scotland, thus ensuring the maintenance of stable and competitive prices."

The Secretary of State's plans were set out in a White Paper claiming three major benefits for privatization.

● Transfer of control of the industry from Whitehall to Scotland with local decisions about investment needs.
● Creation of "major" new companies giving a big boost to the Scottish private sector.
● Creation of a new opportunity for wider share ownership in Scotland.

But Mr Donald Dewar, the Shadow Scottish secretary, said the disposal "will no doubt provide windfall profits for the Chancellor, but it represents a threat to the people of Scotland".

He said thousands of jobs were threatened in the coal industry.

● Proposals welcomed: The chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, welcomed the White Paper (Kerry Gill writes).

Mr Michael Younghan said last night that he was glad that Mr Rifkind had decided that there should be two companies in Scotland, and that the hydro board would continue.

He said: "Now that the political decision has been made it is in the interests of all our consumers, our staff and our future shareholders, that the energy resources of Scotland — hydro, gas, oil, nuclear and coal — are used to the best advantage."

Parliament, page 4

The Who return to a scene of the Sixties



The Who at the Marquee Club yesterday (left to right): John Entwistle, Roger Daltrey, Kenney Jones and Pete Townsend (Photograph: John Rogers).

By Andrew Billen

Members of The Who pop group, now in comparatively sober middle age, returned to the scene of their guitar-smashing heyday yesterday to celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Who have sold 50 million copies of their 12 albums around the world since the first single, *I'm the Face*, produced when the band was still called "The High Numbers".

It was at the Marquee Club in Soho, London, nearly a quarter of a century ago, that, to the delight of Fleet Street photographers, Pete Townsend, the writer of most of the songs, destroyed the first of a long line of electric guitars.

It was said yesterday that he had been influenced by a lecturer at art college who had demonstrated the technique to illustrate some point, now long forgotten, to his students.

The years have done what once, in the days of drinks and drugs and rock and roll, looked impossible: given The

Who the patina of respectability.

Roger Daltrey, the lead singer, was a strip-metal worker at a factory in Acton, west London, before joining The Who. Now, at 43, he lives on a high country estate in East Sussex, has made a TV commercial for American Express and is working in two feature film projects.

Mr Townsend, at one time a trainee newspaper reporter, is a commissioning editor at the publishers Faber. Only John Entwistle of the original band members still spends most of his time making music, and even he lives in a comfortable house in the Cotswolds.

Keith Moon, who seemed to come from nowhere to become the greatest drummer without a sense of rhythm, died in 1979, to be replaced by Kenney Jones.

It is five years since the farewell tour, but The Who are planning to record a new album this summer.



In their heyday: Entwistle, Moon, Daltrey and Townsend in 1965.

Bae plotted Rover deal as Project Longbow

Continued from page 1
partnership link with DAF trucks giving just the link Bae was looking for with military vehicles. And DAF were even making parts for the highly successful American fighter the F16.

Just before Christmas Sir Raymond went to the full board to present Mr Fraser's report and to give it his own backing. He found an immediate response.

The company was in urgent need of an expansion which would widen its base and prevent so much reliance on building civil aircraft. Military budgets were being cut around the world and the future of missile and weapon sales could not be assured.

"We are also facing 1992 when we will be playing in the biggest market in the world,"

said Sir Raymond. "It is quite clear that to be successful in the future you will have to be big. And Rover would help to give us that muscle. In one stroke of the pen we could become a much more valuable business."

Bae's own financial experts got to work on the figures they had collected and were surprised to see the profit potential.

After his meeting with Mr Day Professor Smith insisted that if they made a bid it would have to be based on a very tough set of conditions.

"I was not prepared to take on the business if it had debts or was likely to accumulate debts," said Prof Smith. "My responsibility is to the shareholders and not to politicians. If we were to go ahead it was going to be on the basis

of very hard bargaining only and not on any patriotic notion or for political reasons."

After the initial approach from Prof Smith, the Government laid down one condition straight away — there was to be no selling off of any part of the group for five years. Bae agreed.

In turn they insisted that it must have no debts when they took it over — and that could involve a right off of around £400 million. They also insisted that the existing management team, including Mr Day, remain in post for at least three years. A deal appeared possible.

"What we needed was a portfolio which would include companies which were new and working on the frontiers

of technology and also established, mature businesses which would provide the cash flow. But above all we needed a strong balance sheet which would be expected to increase our earnings per share," said Prof Smith.

Once the news was out the critics, especially City analysts, were quick to condemn the deal. It would not make any sense, they said. There was no synergy between aircraft manufacturers and motor car makers. The workforce of Rover could be at risk.

"A lot of rubbish has been written and spoken," said Prof Smith. "We are not asset strippers in Bae. We are builders of industry and this will make us easily the biggest engineering company in

Britain. The analysts complained about our purchase of the Royal Ordnance Factories. But that was a fantastic deal and we have shown that we can manage. That is what we are good at."

"The trouble is the analysts had not thought of it themselves. Very little research was ever done on Rover. But we did it and we were the first. I think they will see how much more attractive we are once they realise what we have done."

From tomorrow both sides will meet to decide whether, with even closer inspection of the books, it still makes sense.

"If we are still mucking about by the end of April the Government can offer it elsewhere," said Sir Raymond. "But until then it is up to us."

Lords sketch

Keeping serviettes in the right place

Lord Gridley wanted to ask Her Majesty's Government about the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Her Majesty's Government replied that they had arrived in Afghanistan unannounced and uninvited. Everyone grunted so as to signal distress at such impoliteness.

Lord Melish, who, like so many Labour peers, seems to relish this late-sent opportunity to huff and puff like a real Conservative, repeated that therein lay "a message to us all". In his somewhat muffled diction, this message emerged as: "We'd better watch out what we're doing with the serviettes."

Of course, the House of Lords needs no reminding of what to do with their serviettes. They take such a delight in the meticulous exercise of good manners that it only takes one of them to burp for the others to congratulate him most profusely on a quite delightful and erudite exhalation of air.

When Mr Roy Jenkins was still sitting comfortably in the House of Commons, he was renowned throughout the Chamber for his almost regal courtesy and graciousness. Now that he is Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, these qualities seem all the more suitable.

It seemed dangerous, though, for him to jeopardize this hard-earned reputation by spending his first major speech in the Upper House condemning the Government for "the concentration of power in the executive arm". A less courtly speaker might have paraphrased this as an attack on Mrs Thatcher's thirst for power, but then a less courtly speaker would probably not have been raised to the Upper House in the first place.

No speech in the Lords is properly dressed without generous reference to the politicians of history. Mr Gladstone would never have treated his cabinet as the Prime Minister had done, declared Lord Jenkins, and nor would Mr Wilson. Mr Wilson! His days seem now so distant that it is hard to remember whether he came before or after Oliver Cromwell.

Mr Wilson, explained Lord Jenkins, stayed loyal to his

Ministers, though "he used to keep up the interest by moving us around like horses in an annual gymkhana". Under Mrs Thatcher, only three original ministers had survived, and those had all changed jobs.

He spoke of the Government "sacrificing democracy for alleged efficiency" and, citing Westland, *Spycatcher* and "that rather sad little Local Government Bill", declared that even that alleged efficiency wasn't up to much.

The bouffant-haired Lord Cameron of Lochroom rose on behalf of the Government. "I am bound to say that I do not accept that interpretation," he asserted. As he spoke of the Government's "liberation of the people", he resembled nothing so much as a Mayfair hardasser praising his handiwork while idly directing the hand-mirror around the more hirsute parts of a balding pate. Yet in even the baldest areas, he seemed to spy large quantities of hair.

"What could be a better example of true local democracy than that?" he cooed, directing the mirror towards the Poll Tax.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, the leader of the Labour peers, referred back to King Edward I, a monarch whom he described as "an ardent centralist". Peers who had been around at the time nodded their approval of that description.

He spoke of the Poll Tax as "sinister and undemocratic" and referred to the "monumental insensitivity" of the Government, but always in tones of such lifting chumminess that it was hard to believe he was really so upset.

As he sat down, he received a pat on the shoulder from Lord Longford, who spends much time patting shoulders, perhaps believing it might act as a humane deterrent against too many other peers getting up to speak.

And so the debate rumbled on, the aroma of self-satisfaction seeping ever louder. If the meat course never arrived, at least the serviettes remained firmly in their place, and, in the Upper House, that is really what matters.

Craig Brown

Thatcher urges update

Continued from page 1
submit three firm pledges: no "third way" option eliminating short-range nuclear weapons, no nuclear-free zone in Europe, and no change to Nato's doctrine of flexible response.

As the leaders adjourned for dinner last night, officials working on the final declaration to be issued today insisted that the real problem was over semantics — whether the word "modernization" could be included without touching on West German and other sensitivities.

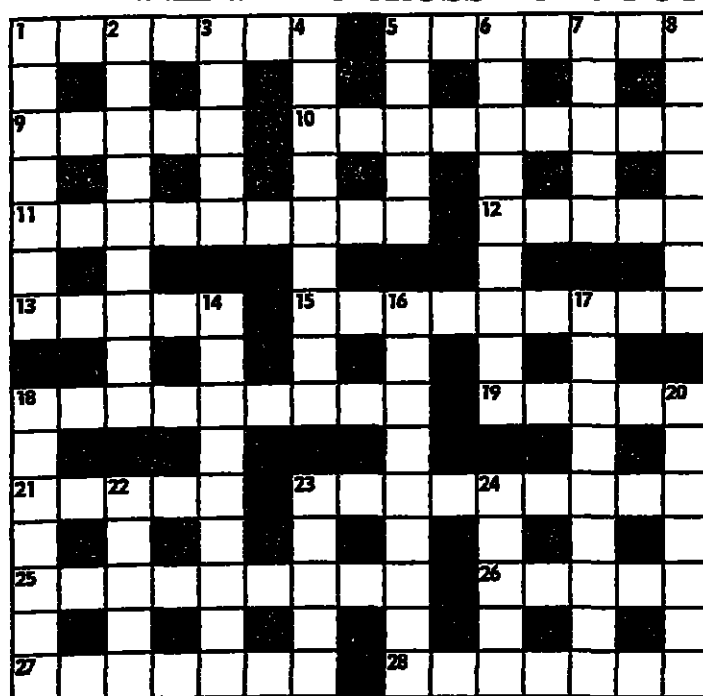
Mrs Thatcher praised Mr Reagan for using his last year in office to combine security with arms reductions.

She said there was a long way to go before basic Soviet habits, formed over many decades, changed. The Soviet aim remained the de-nuclearization of Europe, enabling Moscow to "intimidate and overawe some nations".

President Mitterrand, the first French leader to attend a Nato summit for 22 years, played down his differences with other leaders over Nato strategy, including modernization, and said France would be true to its Nato obligations.

Mr Reagan said that he still regarded the Soviet Union as a "dictatorial empire", despite Mr Gorbachev's welcome openness and readiness for dialogue.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,607



- ACROSS**
- Court card needed, since South is dummy (7).
 - Burdens for mules, say (7).
 - Forcibly take over on horse, with French on inside (5).
 - Lighter propeller (5-4).
 - End a Metro trip to get to this sight? (5,4).
 - Venue for Council once dividing Nottingham (5).
 - Vocal guides in the City (5).
 - Consisting of a little money I have as extra pay (9).
 - Mad and vicious leaders reign so badly (9).
 - Old picture I found among back copies (5).
 - Map out *Daily Telegraph's* leader (5).
 - Coast is clear? Then turn (4-5).
 - Wren, for example, reveals her tactic at sea (9).
 - Poet's gloomy daughter to bring up (5).
 - Page to rent in free sheet, perhaps (7).
 - Delightfully devious about minute taking, initially (7).

- DOWN**
- Adjourn although holding this is dummy (7).
 - Noble female embracing 50 in legion (9).
 - Liberal candidate elected in October, perhaps (5).
 - Deep down, recollect Burma's in East (9).
 - Enchanting woman left out of set (5).
 - Nuances obvious to individuals (9).
 - Made speech supporting member (5).
 - Respect is in order for this (7).
 - Rehearsal? It's a case of political expedience (4,5).
 - Pieces a pound in cost, perhaps (9).
 - Execute, beheading naive people? Exactly! (9).
 - Darling boy, an angel (7).
 - Loathing amount of work associate brings in (7).
 - Seas are hidden by 'aze, we hear, in tropical port (5).
 - Flying boats (5).
 - Jam in a slice of cake (5).

Concise crossword, page 14

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- COMPURSION**
a. Wrinkling one's face up
b. Sheer necessity
c. Omission of the verb
- APOPEMPTIC**
a. Inscrutable
b. A valediction
c. A chain bridge
- BARNYARD PIMP**
a. Poultry braun
b. Fried chicken
c. An Appalachian racketeer
- SIMOLEON**
a. The lion monkey
b. A dollar
c. A seller of benefices

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,606

MINIMUM CARISUON
U O I A U I U N
REARSIGHT FALLS
D C Y I L L T
ERHLY SECRETIVE
B I E T O
SCATTERBRAINED
A O R B R V
BACTERIOLOGIST
S O A E O Y S
TENTACLES NORSE
R P D T A I K
A VOID WHODUNNIT
C R L E N T G O
YEMPLENT EASTERN

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with heavy showers and severe gale force winds. There will be some sleet and snow, especially in the north of Scotland. Most of Wales and the north of England will have sunny intervals and showers. Much of the Midlands and southern England will be cloudy with rain at first but brighter although showery weather will follow from the north. Outlook: cold and windy.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Alexandria	15-25	1-2	1-2
Algiers	15-25	1-2	1-2
Amman	15-25	1-2	1-2
Antwerp	15-25	1-2	1-2
Athens	15-25	1-2	1-2
Bahia	15-25	1-2	1-2
Barcelona	15-25	1-2	1-2
Belgrade	15-25	1-2	1-2
Berlin	15-25	1-2	1-2
Bombay	15-25	1-2	1-2
Buenos Aires	15-25	1-2	1-2
Calcutta	15-25	1-2	1-2
Cairo	15-25	1-2	1-2
Cardiff	15-25	1-2	1-2
Chennai	15-25	1-2	1-2
Cologne	15-25	1-2	1-2
Copenhagen	15-25	1-2	1-2
Dublin	15-25	1-2	1-2
Edinburgh	15-25	1-2	1-2
Geneva	15-25	1-2	1-2
Helsinki	15-25	1-2	1-2
Hong Kong	15-25	1-2	1-2
Immerich	15-25	1-2	1-2
Isle of Man	15-25	1-2	1-2
Jakarta	15-25	1-2	1-2
Kuala Lumpur	15-25	1-2	1-2
La Rochelle	15-25	1-2	1-2
London	15-25	1-2	1-2
Los Angeles	15-25	1-2	1-2
Lyons	15-25	1-2	1-2
Madrid	15-25	1-2	1-2
Manchester	15-25	1-2	1-2
Mexico City	15-25	1-2	1-2
Moscow	15-25	1-2	1-2
Mumbai	15-25	1-2	1-2
Nairobi	15-25	1-2	1-2
Naples	15-25	1-2	1-2
Norwich	15-25	1-2	1-2
Osaka	15-25	1-2	1-2
Paris	15-25	1-2	1-2
Perth	15-25	1-2	1-2
Puerto Rico	15-25	1-2	1-2
Rangoon	15-25	1-2	1-2
Rome	15-25	1-2	1-2
Sao Paulo	15-25	1-2	1-2
Seoul	15-25	1-2	1-2
Shanghai	15-25	1-2	1-2
Singapore	15-25	1-2	1-2
Stockholm	15-25	1-2	1-2
Sydney	15-25	1-2	1-2
Taipei	15-25	1-2	1-2
Tokyo	15-25	1-2	1-2
Toronto	15-25	1-2	1-2
Trinidad	15-25	1-2	1-2
Ulaanbaatar	15-25	1-2	1-2
Warsaw	15-25	1-2	1-2
Washington	15-25	1-2	1-2
Wellington	15-25	1-2	1-2
Yokohama	15-25	1-2	1-2

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Scarborough	15-25	1-2	1-2
Hull	15-25	1-2	1-2
London	15-25	1-2	1-2
Manchester	15-25	1-2	1-2
Cardiff	15-25	1-2	1-2
Belfast	15-25	1-2	1-2
Edinburgh	15-25	1-2	1-2
Glasgow	15-25	1-2	1-2
Sheffield	15-25	1-2	1-2
Nottingham	15-25	1-2	1-2
Leeds	15-25	1-2	1-2
Birmingham	15-25	1-2	1-2
Coventry	15-25	1-2	1-2
Southampton	15-25	1-2	1-2
Portsmouth	15-25	1-2	1-2
Exeter	15-25	1-2	1-2
Cardiff	15-25	1-2	1-2
Belfast	15-25	1-2	1-2
Edinburgh	15-25	1-2	1-2
Glasgow	15-25	1-2	1-2
Sheffield	15-25	1-2	1-2
Nottingham	15-25	1-2	1-2
Leeds	15-25	1-2	1-2
Birmingham	15-25	1-2	1-2
Coventry	15-25	1-2	1-2
Southampton	15-25	1-2	1-2
Portsmouth	15-25	1-2	1-2
Exeter	15-25	1-2	1-2

Notes: T = Thunder, D = Drizzle, F = Fog, S = Sun, C = Cloud, W = Wind, R = Rain, H = Heavy, L = Light, M = Moderate, V = Very, G = Gale, S = Squall, T = Tornado, H = Hurricane, C = Cyclone, W = Wave, S = Storm, L = Low, H = High, M = Medium, V = Very, G = Gale, S = Squall, T = Tornado, H = Hurricane, C = Cyclone.

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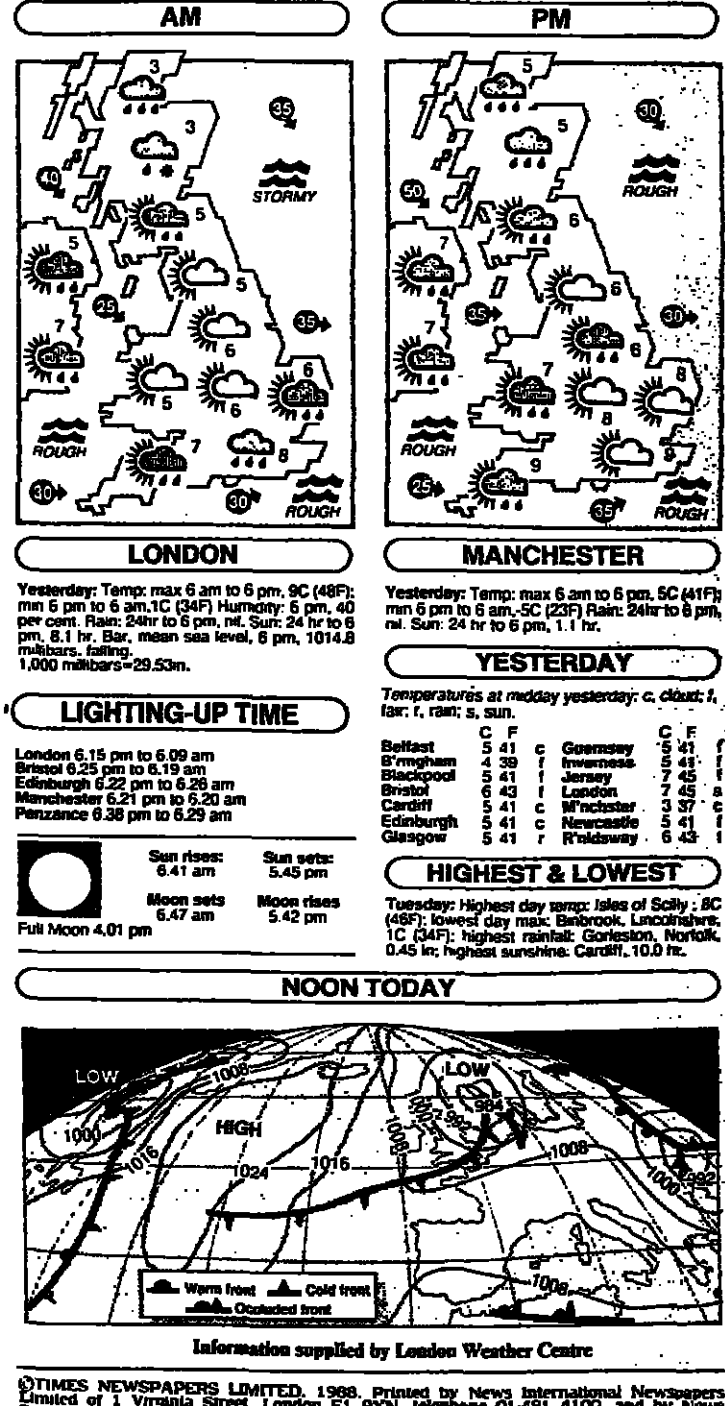
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The FT index closed up 28.8 at 1487.9.

There are GMT



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PART 2
THURSDAY MARCH 3 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 100
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 1000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 10000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 100000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 1000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 10000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 100000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 1000000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 10000000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 100000000000
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FT 1000000000000000000
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FT 10000000000000000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 100000000000000000000
1987.9 (+0.5%)

FT 10000000000000

THURSDAY MARCH 3 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1467.9 (+28.8)

FT-SE 100
1808.7 (+26.6)

Bargains
28764 (26092)

USM (Datastream)
146.50 (+0.51)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7720 (-0.0050)

W German mark
2.9882 (+0.0022)

Trade-weighted
74.7 (-0.1)

BOC sells US plant to Japan

BOC Group, the industrial gases company, has fallen foul of United States' anti-trust laws in its plan to sell its US carbon graphite business to Horsham Industries, but has found other buyers.

It will now sell its graphite electrode plant in Ridgeville, South Carolina, to Showa Denko, the Japanese industrial group, and its two other graphite electrode plants, in Pennsylvania and New York, to a management buyout consortium. The carbon graphite business in Kentucky and the needle coke plant in Texas, which were not part of the original deal, will also go to the management buyout.

All the businesses will be sold at their net book value of \$240 million (£136 million).
Comment, page 27

Crowther up

John Crowther Group, the Yorkshire carpets and textiles company, increased pretax profits in the year to end-December by 70 per cent to £25.3 million. Sales advanced from £224.6 million to £257.8 million. A final dividend of 3.125p was recommended, making a total of 4.38p (3.6p).
Tempus, page 26

Global rises

Global Group, the meat trader and processor quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, raised pretax profits from £216,000 to £277,000 in the first six months of the year. The interim dividend is a same-as-1.25p a share.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2080.90 (+10.44)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	25682.82 (+246.92)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2482.13 (+7.42)
Amsterdam	Amst. 100	238.8 (+3.2)
Sydney	ASX 100	1273.2 (+12.3)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1395.7 (+8.7)
Brussels	Brussels	1895.0 (+10.0)
Geneva	Geneva	4854.5 (+2.9)
Paris	Paris CAC	464.7 (+4.9)
Zurich	Zurich S&P	464.7 (+4.9)
London	FT-100	1808.7 (+26.6)
FT-30	FT-30	1467.9 (+28.8)
Gold	Gold	241.2 (+0.5)
FT 1000	FT 1000	96.47 (-0.08)
FT Govt Secs	FT Govt Secs	90.61 (+0.14)

Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 29
Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

British Aerospace	341p (+12p)
Blue Circle	448p (+15p)
Read Int'l	422p (+15p)
BAE	411p (+14p)
BOC	411p (+14p)
Grand Met	488p (+17p)
Rowntree	447p (+15p)
Mellor	189p (+3p)
Barclays	510p (+15p)
Guinness	314p (+12p)
Centenary	175p (+23p)
San Alliance	256p (+15p)
Campani	256p (+15p)
Steele	351p (+11p)
Glynned	481p (+13p)
Nickel	280p (+18p)
BPB Int'l	293p (+11p)
Allied Text	370p (+15p)

FALLS:	
Logica	280p (-22p)
Parish	282p (-30p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/4-8 1/2%
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury	5.80-5.85%
30-year bonds	10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
\$1.7720	\$1.7715
DM2.9882	DM2.9882
£1.0000	£1.0000
FF11.7482	FF11.7482
Yen128.13	Yen128.13
Index74.7	Index74.7
ECU 10.69992	SDR 20.76757

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$431.55 pm \$428.90	
close \$430.00-430.50	(£242.75-243.25)
New York:	
Comex \$428.20-429.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) pm \$14.35bbl (\$14.00)	
* Denotes latest trading price	
See Roundup 26	Traded Opts 29
Stock Market 26	Money Market 29
Foreign Exchange 26	Commodities 29
Appointments 26	Unit Trusts 29
Company 27	Commodities 29
City Diary 27	USM Prices 29
Wall Street 28	Share Prices 31

New mergers plan for EEC

Brussels trims its competition policy

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Commission has substantially trimmed its ambitions to vet takeovers in an effort to secure final agreement in its 14-year campaign to establish an EEC-wide competition policy.

If accepted by the Council of Ministers, the revised merger control regulation adopted by the Commission yesterday would grant it the power to prohibit or reverse any mergers within the EEC which it considers likely to distort competition or to give rise to unhealthy monopolies.

The merger control regulation, formulated by Mr Peter Sutherland, the Irish Commissioner for competition policy, includes a series of modifications to the original 1973 proposal designed to allay British and French fears over granting Brussels too much power to interfere in corporate takeovers.

Under the new proposals, any merger where the combined global turnover of the companies involved exceeds one billion European Currency Units (£700 million) will be subject to an investigation by the Commission.

The investigation threshold has been increased by 25 per

cent over the original proposal, in deference to British anxieties that the Commission's merger controls would prove excessively punitive to smaller companies.

Takeover of companies with an annual turnover of less than 50 million ECU (£35 million), would be exempt from the new regulation, regardless of the size of the bidder. Companies with more than three-quarters of their combined sales in one member state would also be exempt.

The Commission has reduced the time within which it has to make a decision concerning a proposed merger from nine to four months, in an effort to deflect criticism that EEC regulation could inhibit desirable corporate takeovers.

Following recent warnings by 12 leading European information technology companies that the Commission's competition policy must not hinder the formation of European companies large enough to compete with their US and Japanese counterparts, the Commission's proposal enables it to permit mergers which create monopolies in

those situations where the global nature of competition justifies it.

The proposal is designed to reduce the current bewildering array of member state laws on mergers, which the Commission believes is vital for the completion of the internal market, scheduled for 1992.

Despite attempts to reduce widespread anxiety within the Community over the Commission's attempt to regulate mergers, the new proposal still winds considerable doubt.

Companies would be required to give the Commission advance notice of any intention to acquire another company, and wait for the Commission's approval before proceeding.

Failure to comply with the merger control regulation could result in a maximum fine of 10 per cent of the reorganised company's assets. The regulation would also apply to mergers outside the EEC which have an effect on economic activity within the Community.

EEC investigators would also be empowered to raid company officers and seize documents relating to their inquiries.

Single market optimism 'based on blind hope'

By Colin Narbrough

Lord Rippon, who was the chief negotiator of Britain's entry into the European Economic Community, yesterday gave a warning that British businesses are deluding themselves if they think they can shut their eyes to Europe in the approach to the single EEC market.

Now the chairman of the British section of the European League for Economic Co-operation, he was addressing the launch of Club 1992, a group of leading City names set up to help businesses prepare for the Europe without frontiers which will be established at the end of 1992.

He also said that Europe was in danger of becoming a minor economic force, unless the goal of a genuine common market is met on schedule.

"This is probably our last chance to establish the cohesive European economy which the founding fathers of the community envisaged



after the Second World War," he said.

The leading economic players - Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union and China - would only consider Europeans as equals if they were not divided economically or politically.

At present, they were unsure whether to take 1992 seriously, which in turn was making them unsure whether to regard European companies as suitable partners in new ventures. "If they do not, we will be excluded from their joint trade and technological

developments into the next century," Lord Rippon said.

Mr Elwyn Eilledge, a senior partner with Ernst & Whinney, the accountant and consultancy firm which set up Club 1992, expressed concern that the high level of optimism reported by British firms about the changes coming in the EEC was based on "blind hope rather than sound business strategy."

Research by Ernst & Whinney shows that awareness of the significance of 1992 is growing fast among British companies, although they remain well behind their Continental counterparts.

The firm hopes a series of industry-based seminars it is organizing this year will help channel this optimism into strategic plans.

Club 1992's founder patrons include Lord Young of Graffham, the Treasury Secretary, and Sir Raymond Lygo, the chief executive of British Aerospace.

ConsGold profits soar to £182m

By Colin Campbell

Consolidated Gold Fields, weathering the roller-coaster ride in the world gold price, managed a 87 per cent rise in pretax profit to £182.7 million in the six months ended December, and has followed through with a rise in the interim dividend from 9.5p to 10p a share.

Mr Rudolph Agnew, the chairman, dismissing some market fears of a world gold glut, says ConsGold, through its international operations, continues to be one of the world's lowest cost producers, and that the competitive position of the group is "strong and improving."

During the interim period to December, ConsGold raised its stake in Newmont

Mining from 23.6 per cent to 49 per cent, brought the new gold mine at Chimney Creek, Nevada, into production, and sold a 10 per cent beneficial stake in its associate, Gold Fields of South Africa, for £131 million, making a profit of £82 million.

Mr Agnew said the group's non-South African interests would continue to grow, and that the exploratory budget would increase in the continuing search for natural resource opportunities.

ARC, the group's wholly-owned construction materials producer, benefited from a strong market in the south of England and in America, and made a £37 million profit

UK reserves drop by modest \$25m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves fell by a modest \$25 million last month, confirming the recent stability in the foreign exchange markets.

In Washington, Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, reaffirmed the commitment of the Group of Seven countries to currency stability.

The \$25 million underlying fall in the reserves last month, after a \$38 million rise in January, shows the Bank of England has not been called upon to intervene significantly this year.

The reserves stood at \$42,927 million at the end of February, an actual fall of

\$166 million on January, which converted to an underlying drop of \$25 million after borrowings and repayments under the exchange cover scheme.

With sterling nearing the unofficial DM3 ceiling, dealers believe a favourable market reaction to the Budget could mean the Bank is again required to hold sterling down, and downward pressure on interest rates could emerge.

The pound lost half a cent to \$1.7720 but traded at DM3 briefly, closing at DM2.9984. Mr Paul Volcker, who stepped down as chairman of the Fed last summer, has become part-time professor of international economic policy at Princeton University.

Offer for sale values UK Paper at £107.6m

From teaboy to paper millionaire

By Michael Tate

Mr Tom Wilding and the 70 Bowater paper executives who backed the November 1986 management buyout with £400,000 of their own money today emerge with shareholdings worth £32.3 million.

Mr Wilding, who started work as a teaboy with Bowater 43 years ago, is bringing UK Paper to market via an offer for sale valuing the group at £107.6 million.

In line with the rest of his team he is selling a quarter of his shares, realizing £721,000, leaving himself with 2.14 million or 2.7 per cent of the enlarged equity, worth £2.9 million. Four other directors will be paper millionaires.

Altogether Schroders, the merchant bank, is putting 29.5 million shares on the market - 37 per cent of the increased share capital - to raise £38.9 million.

Only £10 million will be new money for the company, and this has been earmarked for acquisitions, says Mr Wilding, whose name is perhaps better

known in connection with Wilding Office Equipment, run by his brother Terry.

Mr Wilding, aged 57, has run Bowater's paper operations since the early 1980s. He took the company out of its traditional newsprint operations and plunged it into the fine-paper manufacturing business. Today it is the largest manufacturer of high-quality printing paper in the country.

But Bowater, panicked by the looming presence of Hanson on its share register, had no more time for paper-making, the business at which it had made its name but whose cyclical vagaries had plagued it with erratic profit performances.

In spite of Mr Wilding's insistence that the good times were returning, Bowater wanted to sell out, so Mr Wilding put his buyout together and bought the company for £38 million. Far too much, said the City. A steal, said the paper industry, which had a clearer idea of the growth potential.

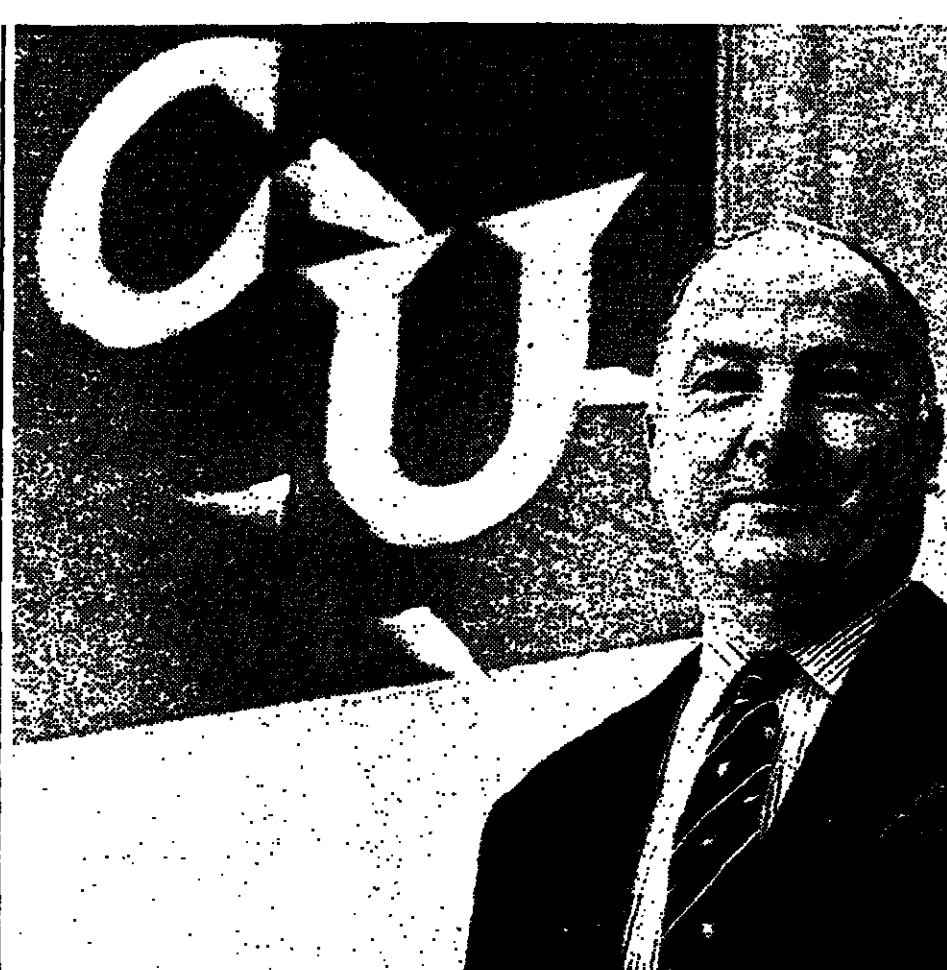
Over the past 15 months Mr Wilding

has completed his rationalization programme. It is now a pure white-paper group, specializing in products ranging from photocopy paper to jam-jar labels. The final hurdle to the flotation plan was cleared last month when the packaging paper mill and wastepaper business was sold to David S Smith for £10.65 million.

The prospectus shows that group profits soared from £4.3 million in 1985 to £18.3 million last year, although this includes the benefit of a £1.7 million pensions holiday and a further £1 million in currency gains.

The group's three mills, two in Sittingbourne and one in Aberdeen, produced 225,000 of Britain's 1.5 million tonnes of high-quality printing papers last year - more than any other manufacturer in the country.

Substantial tax credits will be available for years, and, given the 11 per cent charge for 1987, the shares, at 135p, are selling for 7.8 times historic earnings, after stripping out the pension and currency benefits.



Windswept: Tony Brend, chief of Commercial Union, which lost £15 million to October's gales

Insurers count damage

By Alison Eadie

Commercial Union and General Accident, the composite insurance companies, registered gross losses of £70 million and £60 million respectively as a result of the October storms. After reinsurance recoveries, the losses to the companies were £15 million for CU and £30 million for GA.

Last week Royal Insurance revealed a £105 million gross loss as a result of the damage caused by the storms. The largest loss, estimated to be £120 million by stockbroking analysts, is expected to have been sustained by Sun Alliance.

An increase in household insurance rates looks likely, not just because of the October storm but because of the

severe winter weather of past years. Mr John Carter, the general manager of CU for the UK, said that five of the past six years had produced big weather losses. He added that there was pressure from the reinsurance market to raise rates, and CU had been forced to pay more for its reinsurance this year. GA said that an increase in household rates was needed.

Total storm damage is estimated by the Association of British Insurers to have topped £1 billion, although only £850 million is likely to be an insurable loss, with the balance relating to non-insured trees.

The insurance companies unveiled 1987 profits much in line with market expectations. CU made £170.1 million pre-

tax, an increase of 43 per cent on premium income 3 per cent higher, and GA made £204.4 million, a rise of 66 per cent on premium income up 11.4 per cent.

CU, whose profits of £90.6 million from life business account for more than half the total group profit, is setting up a joint life company with the Midland Bank which will start trading in April. Capitalized at £12.5 million, the company will be owned 35 per cent by CU and 65 per cent by Midland. Its products will be sold through the Midland Bank branch network.

CU increased its total dividend to 16p, a rise of 23 per cent, and GA hiked its dividend by 25 per cent, to 35p.

Tempus, page 26

M&S 'still after Brooks'

By Our City Staff

Marks and Spencer last night declared that the US Brooks Bros stores group, for which it has conditionally bid \$770 million (£435.27 million), is not lost yet and that "we still want it."

M&S was reacting to the latest twist in the Manhattan store war, where the US stores group RH Macy has outbid Campeau and won boardroom support for a merger with Federated Department Stores.

The British high street group said that even if Campeau loses its bid for Federated, it would give serious thought to how it could still win Brooks Bros, which is owned by Campeau. It de-

clined to be drawn on whether it plans a higher bid for Brooks Bros, or whether it believes that Campeau is still a willing seller of the men's clothing store.

But the latest turn of events has seen Macy and Federated agreeing a deal at \$74.50 a share for 80 per cent of Federated, and Campeau determined to pursue its \$68 bid.

Under the surprise Federated-Macy deal, Federated says if for any reason other than Macy's default or failure to obtain financing the transaction is not consummated, then Federated will pay up to \$45 million of Macy's documented expenses.

Federated added that it considered the \$68 a share cash proposal from Campeau and noted that in certain circumstances Campeau was willing to raise its bid to \$69.50 a share.

However, Federated finally determined that the Campeau bid was "not in the best interests of shareholders," and recommended that its shareholders reject the offer.

M&S shares yesterday continued to trade nervously as they have since it first announced its ambitions for Brooks Bros. The City remains worried over the price M&S is paying and its impact on earnings.

Catalogue launch, page 27

Honda's welcome for BAe move

By Daniel Ward and Derek Harris

The Rover Group takeover by British Aerospace is likely to strengthen rather than break Austin Rover's crucial collaborative links with Honda, the chairman of the Japanese car maker said yesterday.

Honda is clearly relieved that a rival car-maker is not taking over Rover, and Mr Satoshi Okubo, chairman of Honda, said that now perhaps the courtship between the two companies could become recognized as marriage.

Details are being hammered out between Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, and Mr Graham Day, the Rover chairman, of what is expected to be a far-reaching plan to draw Honda closer to BAe after its projected takeover of the Rover group.

The two chairmen have meetings scheduled next week in Japan with top executives of Honda, with which Rover has had a series of partnership deals.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, who was due to fly there next Thursday for government level talks, is going a day early to accompany Professor Smith and Mr Day in their discussions.

One suggestion is that he sees himself playing the role of honest broker because Professor Smith looks likely to be putting some radical ideas to the Japanese.

Mr Okubo said that the emergence of British Aerospace BAe as Rover's purchaser would bring stability to the relationship with the British car-maker. By 1990, Austin Rover will be building 30,000 to 40,000 Hondas at the Cowley and Longbridge plants, many using engines built at Honda's Swindon engine plant.

Shares in BAe continued their strong recovery on the Stock Exchange yesterday. Dealers and analysts arrived at their desks from Tuesday night's meeting with BAe management convinced that the aircraft and arms group was likely to buy the Government's shares in Rover on such favourable terms that it would make a good financial deal.

After falling from 354p to 313p after Tuesday's announcement and then recovering to 331p, BAe shares put on a further 10p yesterday to 341p. Dealers and big shareholders had initially reacted to the concept of BAe buying the notorious car maker.

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executive director.
Farr Europe: Mr Don Parker is made managing director and Mr Anthony Llewelyn sales and marketing director.
Waverley Cameron: Mr Graham Watson becomes a non-executive director.
DCS Group: Mr Ray Spencer joins the board.

BT Reve
no-f

**'Keep on
managing
rates'**

**By Ronald
Economics**

The trouble with the second round of the election is not during the campaign but after the vote is cast. The exchange rate will not be a matter of course. In a recent Public Finance Committee report on the exchange rate, the committee has recommended that the exchange rate be fixed at the current level.

- Targeted adjustment within a flexibility necessary
- Agree on a framework for fiscal adjustment
- Close cooperation

The world is more extreme than we had realized. Breton was right. Instead of the managed Louvre, the community.

The power would be in the hands of the community.

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Nearly a third of the voters now favor changes to the Constitution to allow a new Confederate States of America.

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Getting to the Point

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BT reveals majority stake in no-frills share dealer

By Vivien Goldsmith

British Telecom has revealed that it is a majority stakeholder in a "no-frills" share-dealing service - Albert E Sharp's ShareLink.

The service, which has been operating for nearly a year, is 64 per cent owned by BT, 32 per cent by Albert E Sharp, the Birmingham broker, while Mr David Jones, the founder, holds the other 4 per cent.

The BT stake was revealed after the joint venture was put on a more formal basis. This means that ShareLink has had to apply to become a member of the Securities Association in its own right rather than operate under the Albert E Sharp umbrella.

Mr Jones left BT, where he

started telephone inquiry services including the one which handled the BT share float, to set up his own company. He then approached Albert E Sharp and BT started the joint venture.

ShareLink has a list of 8,000 clients already and claims 1 per cent of the total market in terms of the number of deals.

The minimum dealing cost is £15 plus VAT, with commission set at 1.25 per cent for the first £2,000 and 0.75 per cent for the next £5,000. It operates seven days a week, taking orders with price limits at weekends between 10am and 4pm.

Mr Jones plans an aggressive marketing campaign now

that the service is running smoothly. "I was keen that we did not announce that BT was involved earlier. There was a lot of work to be done on the structure," he said.

But now ShareLink has British Telecom's 240,000 workforce in its sights as after the float about 90 per cent of them are shareholders.

ShareLink has also concluded a deal with the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Society which will give members of the union discounts on share dealing.

A mailing campaign will begin next week aimed at persuading existing British Telecom shareholders to use the ShareLink service.

The no-frills dealing services offer a dealing facility without traditional stockbroker advice mushroomed in the heyday of the bull market.

But soon they were swamped with applicants, and overwhelmed by small dealers. Kleinwort Grieson, the broker, closed its service, and House Govett, the broker, has recently insisted that clients deposit £500 or 10 per cent of deals in a separate deposit account.

But there are other services which are still keen to expand. Debenhams' Teletrade claims 8,000 clients and Henry Cooke Lumsden, the Manchester broker, is still running its service, Marketlink.

Logica rights pays for US buy

By Michael Tate

Logica, the computer group covering software design to information technology, has launched a \$45 million (£25.43 million) offer for Data Architects, the US software group, and is asking its shareholders to finance the deal via a £26 million rights issue.

Pretax profits at Logica have risen from £4.23 million to £5.44 million in the six months to the end of December and it is lifting the interim dividend from 0.5p a share to 0.7p.

Data Architects, which was established 20 years ago, makes its money from the professional and financial services industries. It made profits of \$3.1 million in 1987, against \$3.35 million in the previous year.

The most important of its software product lines is Bess, the bank electronic support system, which automates the wireroom, funds transfer and related operations for large financial institutions, and the Bankmaster system for calculating interest rate risks and related financial data.

The biggest slice of its professional services business comes from the life insurance industry, where one client, New York Life Insurance, accounted for 38.8 per cent of the group's total revenues in 1987.

The terms of Logica's rights issue, which has been fully underwritten, are two new shares at 236p for every nine held.

Mr David Mann, the managing director of Logica, said that the group has been looking to increase its US presence for some time.

"DAI's operations represent a good commercial fit with the rest of Logica's world-wide operations, and its acquisition will substantially increase the size of our operations in the US," he said.

Drayton plan in balance

The future of the Drayton Japan investment trust hung in the balance last night as shareholders voted to include a cash alternative in restructuring proposals for the trust.

AJS Partners, which has been stalking the trust and speaks for about 27 per cent of Drayton votes, was behind the move to force MIM-Britannia to offer a cash option.

The demand for a cash option may put the restructuring proposals in doubt.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Somebody is in for a disappointment

Mr Thatcher's shaker and mover has his reputation to protect and Lord Young has clearly not been pleased by the widespread interpretation that David Walker's move to the Securities and Investment Board last week meant more muscle for the Old Lady. To make his dissatisfaction clear and correct any misreadings, Lord Young set his youthful corporate affairs minister, Francis Maude, the task of finding an appropriate medium in which to convey the message. It has now appeared in the form of a letter to Labour's Tony Blair.

In it, Maude politely declines to pass comment on Sir Kenneth Berrill, the ageing pilot the Government last week lowered overboard, beyond repeating hollow-sounding words of appreciation for "formidable contributions" and all that. Where Walker is concerned, the language is, however, plainer. To infer, changing role for the Bank on account of his appointment would be "wrong." You cannot be plainer than that. And he goes on to hammer the message home, pointing out that the SIB's function as chief overseer of the new regulatory framework is defined by statute and the board is under obligation to report to none other than Lord Young.

Shamming a personal opinion, Maude adds that he does not see how Walker's arrival from Threadneedle Street changes this position.

Market unfair to BOC

Virtue brings its own reward, sometimes at least. Richard Giordano, the BOC chairman, singled out the management of the carbon division in the United States for particular praise in his annual report a few months ago. They had, he said, done a superb job in restoring the group to profitability, even though they had some help from the falling dollar and a depreciation charge reduced by previous asset write-offs. "They have lowered costs throughout the business, stabilized and improved product quality and penetrated new export markets, all in the face of intense world competition," enthused the chairman.

But, despite the praise, the carbon business was for the chop. He had already agreed to sell most of the operations to Horsehead Industries at a price equal to a knockdown asset value and all that the management had succeeded in doing was to make the business easier to sell.

The situation has been rescued, however, by the anti-trust authorities which made it clear that Horsehead already had enough of the business and can have no more. So instead of the Horsehead deal, the management itself is buying the major part of the operation through a leveraged buyout. The management does not quite have the \$140 million or so it needs, so BOC has

If that is to be the case, then the cheering ranks of the clearing banks which shamefully whispered Sir Kenneth out of office with a campaign which reached its lowest ebb at the meeting of the International Monetary Fund last September, may have to put away their rattles and scarves. The banks wanted one of their own kind, rather than Sir Kenneth, who freely admits that he had to elbow his way in the Old Lady's bed to do the job with which he was charged.

The removal of Sir Kenneth was a victory to the nod and wink brigade and both the Governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton and Lord Young were looking for an easier man to deal with in Walker. Through the protocol politeness of Whitehall one can hear the voices saying that Sir Kenneth just was not up to it. What the SIB job calls for is a "sensible and flexible" approach. Sir Kenneth is deemed too legalistic, but that is more the fault of the Act than the man who has to make it work.

Maude's letter certainly charts a "steady ahead" course, assuring that investor protection will not be weakened, nor will the objectives of the Financial Services Act - efficiency, competitiveness, investor confidence and flexibility - be changed.

Mr Walker, however, will be nobody's flexible friend. Somebody, somewhere, is in for a disappointment.

agreed to remain a minority participant in the business.

Another part of the carbon business is going to the Japanese company Showa Denko KK for about \$100 million and provided all now goes to plan - and as Grand Metropolitan can testify management buyouts sometimes fall at the final fence - BOC is out of carbon. The latest pair of deals, which are intertwined because the two potential buyers need to do business with each other, are better than the Horsehead deal because they include the needle coke business which BOC was having to retain.

Most of the proceeds have already been spent, but BOC is still in a buying mood. At present, it is bidding for the minority interest in Commonwealth Industrial Gases in Australia, a move which could cost it £86 million if the Australians stop celebrating long enough to send off their acceptance. It is buying the home medical products operations of Baxter Healthcare in the US for \$59 million. And it is looking at other investment projects.

BOC is still not the most exciting investment on the face of the stock market, but it is a massively improved company compared with a few years ago. The shares responded well to the latest deals but are still at a discount to the market as a whole. That is unfair.

'Keep on managing rates'

By Rodney Lord Economics Editor

The breakdown of the Louvre accord on exchange rate stability during the autumn should not persuade governments to give up trying to manage exchange rates, says a committee of experts.

In a report published by the Public Policy Centre, the committee recommends moving towards an exchange rate regime with three elements:

● Targets for real, ie inflation-adjusted, exchange rates within a broad band of flexibility, permitting any necessary realignments

● Agreed "rules of the game" for fiscal policy, designed to achieve internal economic balance

● Closer co-ordination of interest rates to provide a check on world inflation.

The world should not try to move back towards either extreme of free floating or fixed rates, as under the Bretton Woods system.

Instead, it should develop the managed floating of the Louvre accord, says the committee.

The necessary preliminary would be a transitional period in which the major countries are seen to move towards greater harmony in their fiscal policies.

The committee was chaired by Lord Croom, a former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, and included Count Otto von Lambsdorff, former West German Economics Minister, and Mr Robert Roosa, former Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs in the US Treasury.

Boost for M&S furnishings



Mr Jeremy Sacher (left), Mr Ernie Finch and Mr Roger Scott, part of the Marks and Spencer Home Furnishings team, yesterday launched the group's new Home Furnishings catalogue. The move, designed to boost sales in its growing furniture and decorating operation, could, according to City commentators, add 25 per

cent to its home furnishings turnover of about £250 million. M&S has 48 outlets selling furniture and furnishings averaging 3,000 sq ft each. The group will put 300,000 catalogues on sale at £1 each in 100 of its 275 British stores. They will also be promoted at the Ideal Home Exhibition. Mr Finch emphasized the

catalogue was not aimed at the mail-order market. "We would be happy if we increased our sales by 5 per cent from direct buying from the catalogue," he said, "but trials show the biggest effect is by increasing business in existing stores. The catalogue is an advertising aid to increase awareness of the goods we produce."

Mount Charlotte climbs to £29m

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Robert Peel, the fast-moving hotelier, added more than 3,000 bedrooms to his Mount Charlotte Investments group last year but is still looking for more hotels to buy.

The group, with 68 hotels totalling 9,000 bedrooms, half in London, raised pretax profits by 55 per cent to £29 million. Turnover increased by 43 per cent to £93.3 million.

Mr Peel, the managing

director, pulled off his biggest deal with the takeover of three London hotels - the Grosvenor, Charing Cross and Barbican - from International Leisure for £99 million.

He has now scrapped plans to float off 10 hotels acquired from the Ladbroke Group into a separate company called Castle Ross Hotels.

"All our hotels - with the exception of three in Aberdeen - had a very good year,"

said Mr Peel. "I am still looking for more hotels but since Black Monday our share price has come back so anything we buy will be for cash."

Bookings are buoyant and despite the fall in the value of the dollar he is not expecting American visitors to cancel their trips - although they may spend less while they are here.

On the stock market the shares were unchanged at 121p.

CBI fears effects of skills shortage

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Nearly a third of manufacturers now expect skill shortages to hit output, according to a new survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

This is almost double the number anticipating such problems last year. The proportion worried about such effects went from 19 per cent in 1986 to 34 per cent in 1987.

Ominously, the survey

found most employers responded to shortages by continuing recruitment, possibly raising pay levels. Yet skilled experience can only be gained where employers are prepared to invest in training people, the survey points out.

The problem has been intensified by the substantial economic growth in the past year, which has led to increased recruitment demand, particularly at higher skill levels, across manufacturing industry.

The worst problem is among professional engineers, especially in the electrical, electronic and mechanical disciplines. Also in high demand are experienced managers, computing and information technology specialists and some types of engineering craftsmen, the survey found.

The shortages are so bad that the effects are feeding through to overall investment decisions by companies. In the survey, 43 per cent expected that labour shortages would

lead to limitations being imposed on capital spending decisions over the next 12 months.

Among those expecting to limit spending, more than two-thirds pointed to problems with skilled manual labour, 41 per cent instanced scientific and engineering occupations, while 38 per cent had problems with foremen and supervisors.

Most manufacturers reporting shortages believed they are affecting output.

Getting to the Point

It has taken more than 20 years, but at last the "no vacancies" sign can be nailed up at Centre Point, the infamous office block that glowers down on London's Fottenham Court Road. The building, the creation of high-rise architect Richard Seifert and built by the legendary property tycoon Harry Hyams, stood empty for 15 years, becoming a symbol of the unacceptable face of 1960s property development. The CBI finally made the grand gesture and took part of the building over as its headquarters, but there were still 13 floors empty when Hyams's company, Oldham Estate, was taken over in a £500 million deal last year by MEPC, Britain's second largest property group. One of the snags was that the floor space at Centre Point was cramped by modern standards. MEPC chairman Christopher Benson got his men to work and he now tells me that at long last the building is fully let. "Mr Hyams always wanted one tenant for the building but that was never feasible. We've now got 10 tenants in the place and everyone seems quite happy."

Jobs go

Another 40 jobs have gone in the City, this time at Manufacturers Hanover. The redundancies are London's share of the 2,500 jobs the American investment bank said last December would have to go, following the stock market

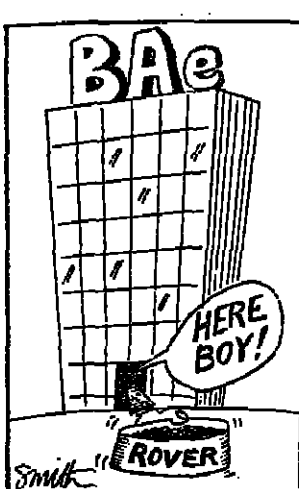
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Something in the Eire

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which meets today to decide the fate of TV-am, the strike-bound, Sandi-backed breakfast television station, will no doubt be keeping tabs on developments in Ireland, where viewers are also looking forward to the dawn joys of cartoons with their cornflakes. Ireland's state-owned RTE is negotiat-

ing a deal to beam Ted Turner's Cable News Network to early risers. With the Irish government considering giving private stations a crack at the television market, RTE - worried lest a newcomer steal the early-morning audience - is clearly keen to establish a beachhead. Holy brainwaves, Batman: is this the dastardly handiwork of The Joker?

crash. More than 2,000 of the cuts were made among the bank's New York employees. The 40 redundancies at the London office were across the board and were "performance and business" related, cutting Manufacturers' workforce in London down to 1,170.



Spirit level

Anita Roddick's beauty empire moves from the natural to the supernatural. Staff arriving at Body Shop's branch in York's Coppergate Centre have been nervously opening the doors in the morning to find packets of cosmetics mysteriously opened, bottles and boxes switched to different shelves and 5 litre drums of lotion scattered over the shop floor. Last week, for the third time, the glass had broken on the shop's interior fire alarm: local firemen arrived to find the premises locked and uninhabited. Spooked salesgirls fear a poltergeist and are refusing to stay in the haunted shop after dark. "It's creepy," says manageress Barbara Watson. "We've looked for a logical explanation, but there isn't one. We can only think it is a poltergeist or an old Viking ghost." Viking? It's probably the seaweed face gel he is after.

Jean tonic

I cannot believe that the Levi advertising campaign has captured the attention of the case-study fanatics at Harvard Business School. Eddie Cochran's 'C'mon Everybody' is the fifth golden oldie used as the soundtrack for the much acclaimed and sometimes controversial Levi 501 jeans television commercials, and the fifth to climb into the top 20. Sam Cooke's 'Wonderful World' set the turntables spinning two years ago, followed by Marvin Gaye's 'I Heard It Through The Grapevine'. Then came Ben E. King's 'Stand By Me' and when a Man Loves a Woman by Percy Sledge. The record companies have gleefully cooperated with the advertising campaign by releasing the singles in appropriately jeans-bedecked covers. Tapping their feet to the music, Levi Strauss has seen the sales of its cultish, red-tabbed 501s soar by more than 800 per cent. The difficulty for the Harvard johnnies is working out whether the music helped the denim or vice versa. Depending on what conclusions they reach, there's a chance we may never have to suffer that wailing Old Spice music again.

● A small fire at the Stock Exchange yesterday lifted the hearts of some ingrates who feel that Sir Nicholas Goodison is slipping in his role as minister to his flock in the City. As a plume of white smoke swirled up to the skies, the papal cry rang out: "Oh look! They have found a new chairman."

Joe Joseph

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BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

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PR firm seeks £15m to expand

By Lawrence Lever
Shandwick is paying an initial £12.98 million to buy two public relations companies and financing the deals via a one-for-three rights issue which will raise £15.38 million net.

It also reported a 210 per cent increase in its half-year pretax profits to £3.1 million. Shandwick claims to be the world's largest independent public relations group.

It is now adding International Public Relations Company, the largest public relations consultancy in Japan, and the McCann Consultancy, a British agency, to the string of acquisitions it has embarked on since its stock market debut in October 1985. It is paying an initial £9.65 million for IPR, based on the expectation that the company will make pretax profits of £1.54 million this year. On the basis of an anticipated 45 per cent tax rate the initial consideration represents 11.4 times IPR's current earnings.

However, the final payment from Shandwick, which depends on IPR's profitability over the next five years, could rise to £25.4 million.

IPR boasts clients, such as Toyota, American Express and Hitachi. However, it has a somewhat uneven profit record over the last five years which Shandwick attributes to increasing its staff and other costs in 1984 to meet growing demand.

Shandwick is paying £2.2 million for the McCann Consultancy, which made profits before tax and non-recurring items of £160,000 last year.

The IPR deal is conditional on the approval of shareholders to a one-for-three rights issue of new Shandwick shares at 435p. This compares with Shandwick's share price in the market yesterday of 530p. The shares held steady after the announcement. Shandwick's half-time profits of £3.1 million compare with £1 million at the corresponding stage last year. Acquisitions play a large part in the increase both in profits and earnings per share — which rose 106 per cent to 20p.

The half-year dividend rises 33 per cent to 2p.

Giveaway budget includes HK\$1.1bn tax concessions Boost for HK's middle class

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's middle class received a big Budget boost yesterday with a cut in taxes, a reduction in stamp duty for home-buyers and a new tax allowance for working wives.

Mr Piers Jacobs, the financial secretary, was able to hand out tax concessions worth HK\$1.1 billion (£79 million) in the 1988-89 fiscal year on the back of a booming economy and cash reserves approaching HK\$13 billion.

He cut the standard tax rate from 16.5 per cent to 15.5 per cent and raised personal allowances by 40 per cent. Only about one in seven of Hong Kong's 5.5 million inhabitants will pay any tax at all and just 53,000 taxpayers contribute HK\$4.3 billion, more than half the Colony's personal tax revenue.

Working wives are being given a tax allowance at a time when the Colony's factories are working to capacity to fill overseas orders and unemployment has dropped below 2 per cent.

Mr Jacobs said his cuts would almost halve the tax bill of a family of four with both husband and wife working and a joint income of HK\$14,000 a month.

The financial secretary is raising the threshold at which stamp duty of 2.75 per cent is paid from HK\$500,000 to HK\$1.5 million, to try to encourage home ownership.



The cutting edge: 'appropriate and proper encouragement' for business

Property values are still rising in the Crown Colony, which is due to be handed back to China in 1997, with prices on Hong Kong island equivalent to those in central London.

Hong Kong's thriving businesses will also benefit from the budget. The Government has cut corporate taxes from 18 to 17 per cent, although Mr Jacobs said he had decided against capital allowances for new plant and machinery.

"I consider that the proposed reduction in the rate of tax on corporate profits will provide appropriate and proper encouragement to all those in business," he said.

The only negative aspects to Mr Jacobs' giveaway budget were slight increases in taxes on cigarettes, drink, cosmetics and cars.

Mr Jacobs said revenue in 1988-89 would still benefit from the two boom years just passed, although he now expected a slowdown in economic growth. He estimates a

5 per cent growth in gross domestic product for the financial year starting April 1, compared with 13.5 per cent in 1987-88.

At current prices, per capita GDP should reach about HK\$72,000.

One cloud on the horizon was the stock market crash and its knock-on effect on economies around the world. Hong Kong was particularly hard hit by the market crash — it closed down its stock exchange for four days and

posed reduction in the rate of tax on corporate profits will provide appropriate and proper encouragement to all those in business," he said.

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Call for UK to fix sterling against EEC currencies

By Our Financial Staff

Britain would have to fix sterling's value against other European currencies before the Community could go any further towards monetary integration, Herr Karl Otto Pohl said yesterday.

The president of the West German Bundesbank confirmed that he favoured moves to expand the European Monetary System (EMS), including the creation of a European central bank, but said that any such moves could only succeed if all member states played their full part.

"If Europe is headed towards a fully integrated market for goods and services, money and capital, it would certainly be logical to push for a close integration of currencies," he said in an interview in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

But he said this could only come about if all European Community members joined the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System and conformed fully to its conditions.

At present, only West Germany, France, Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands fall into this category. Apart from sterling, the currencies of Spain, Portugal and Greece are not even part of the rate mechanism.

Among those that do participate, the Italian lira still enjoys wider EMS fluctuation limits than the other currencies and the Luxembourg franc is tied to the two-tiered Belgian franc.

Herr Pohl said an expanded monetary system would also need a currency anchor that is as stable, convertible and confidence-building as the West German mark, which has temporarily fulfilled the role originally designed for the European Currency Unit.

He said a European central bank would not only have to control its circulation, but also guarantee its stability.

Headed: "Personally, I am very doubtful that the European governments are now ready or able to agree to the wide-reaching sacrifice of sovereignty that the creation of such an institution would require."

"In principle, I am a convinced advocate of a European central bank, but it is clear that many difficult questions need to be answered."

Although Herr Pohl played down the Bundesbank's oft-stated demand for independence, monetary analysts believe this is still a crucial issue for the German central bank as Europe moves towards closer monetary policy cooperation.

Higher metal prices boost earnings at CRA by 68%

Melbourne (Reuters) — CRA, the mining and smelting group, attributed a 68 per cent jump in 1987 net earnings to a combination of higher metal prices, cost savings and abnormal contributions due to accounting changes.

CRA's equity-accounted net earnings climbed to a record Aus\$232.11 million (£93.97 million) in 1987, topping the previous peak of Aus\$175 million in 1980, and against Aus\$138.15 million in 1986, outpacing a rise of only 4.5 per cent in sales to Aus\$5.03 billion from Aus\$4.81 billion.

The result, which was marked by a surge in the second half net to Aus\$201.03 million from Aus\$77.86 million a year earlier, topped

analysts' earnings forecasts of about Aus\$200 million to Aus\$220 million.

A final dividend of 14 cents will be paid, making a total of 19 cents for the year against 13 cents in the previous year.

Prices for most metals increased throughout the year with prices realized in the second half being significantly higher than in the first although the strength of the Australian dollar against the US currency reduced their impact, CRA said. However, iron ore and coal prices were markedly lower than in 1986.

CRA's figures show that aluminium made the largest contribution to net earnings, of Aus\$112 million against Aus\$37.8 million in 1986,

through its share of the previously-reported earnings of Comalco, a 67 per cent owned subsidiary.

Copper and gold made the second largest contribution, of Aus\$69.1 million against Aus\$37.7 million in 1986, largely through CRA's share of the previously-reported earnings of Bougainville Copper, its 53.6 per cent owned subsidiary.

Net earnings of the Hamersley from division halved to Aus\$54.2 million from Aus\$111.8 million due to lower prices and sales although Hamersley will benefit in 1988 from higher productivity and an expected increase in Japanese demand, it said.

Dollar strengthens confidence

(Reuters) — Share prices closed higher yesterday on continued aggressive buying of large capitalization issues, amid confidence bolstered by a stable dollar, brokers reported.

Mr Gerhard Hinterhauser, an assistant vice-president at DB Capital Markets (Asia) Ltd, said: "In general, the market environment has turned 180 degrees. A month ago, people were terrified of the year-end and now they are terrified of missing the race."

The Nikkei Dow index rose by 246.92 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 25,682.82. It gained 193.09 points on Tuesday. Advances outnumbered declines by almost two to one on a turnover of 1.7 billion shares. Securities house, phar-

maceutical, railway/bus, gas, airline, property, electronic, construction, non-life insurance, credit/lease, communications and bank issues rose.

Rolling stock, retail, oil, service and some manufacturing shares fell.

Despite a slight drop on Monday which ended Tokyo's 13-day bull run and the fact that "the general feeling was that the market would be weaker this week," the market had managed to generate enough energy to continue rising, a broker said. Yesterday's huge volume matched Tuesday's.

Mr Akio Ishida, a deputy general manager at Yasuda Trust Fund, said: "I think that belief [that the market will hit

new highs] is widely held. At the earliest, end of March, or on the late side, April." But there is some growing caution as the market chalks up such heavy daily turnover.

Tremendous volume generated in large capital issues could indicate a late cycle of an upward market. Mr Moriyasu Tahara, an analyst of Schroders Securities, said: "When trading exceeds around 2 billion shares for a few days, this may mean the market is reaching a short term peak. Historically, such volume means the market is overheating."

The top 10 traded issues in recent days have made up from more than 30 to 50 per cent of the total day's volume.

Shares in focus have been primarily steels, with some heavy industries and large capital electronics.

The primary buyers of such shares are institutions because substantial gains cannot be made unless an investor owns a large amount of these generally inexpensive shares, brokers explained. The bullish market is mainly because "institutional investors have become more positive about the future," a broker said.

Because of an absence of fresh factors, investors are continuing to see good earnings outlooks for industries such as steel as the impetus to buy, which has boosted interest in large capitalization issues.

HONG KONG

Shares up in active dealings

(Reuters) — Prices closed higher yesterday on generally improved sentiment, but profit-taking trimmed the gains in the final minutes, brokers said. The Hang Seng index ended the day 7.42 points higher at 2,462.13 and the Hong Kong index rose by 4.57 to 1,612.51.

Trading remained active with turnover of HK\$984.65 million (£71.3 million) against HK\$1,071 million on Tuesday. Brokers said that sentiment was further boosted by the 1988-89 budget presented by the Financial Secretary during late trading, but some investors cashed in their profits.

FRANKFURT

Prices close easier on lack of buying

(Reuters) — Shares ended a dull day yesterday with both domestic and foreign investors remaining on the sidelines, and professional operators continuing to pare back long positions. One dealer said: "Prices drifted lower because there was a lack of buy orders." Another added: "Everyone is cautious."

He said that with the dollar steady and Wall Street little changed there were no incentives to buy. One dealer explained: "We're in a phase of consolidation following the recent surge." But he noted that no selling pressure emerged.

SYDNEY

Advances in most sectors

(Reuters) — The market ended stronger yesterday with rises in most sectors, as buyers focused on leading industrial and resource stocks. Brokers said that a solid profit result from CRA, the big miner, also helped to boost sentiment. Near the close, the All Ordinaries index rose by 12.2 points to 1,285.5, the All Industrials gained 26.2 points to 2,098.4 and the All Resources was 2.3 higher at 674.9.

National turnover was a solid 114.23 million shares, worth Aus\$194.37 million (£78.7 million). Falls narrowly outnumbered rises.

WALL STREET

Dow quickly ahead

New York (Reuters) — Shares extended their opening climb in early trading yesterday with blue chips reaching the day's highs. The Dow Jones industrial average was 16 points higher at 2,086.46. But analysts expected heavy resistance if the Dow average approaches the 2,100 level.

Rising shares outnumbered declining issues by two to one. Woolworth rose by 1 1/4 to 47 1/2.

It has reported record fourth-quarter profits. The issue is in the Dow average.

In Congress, Mr Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve's chairman, said that he did not see a recession in 1988. This is a perception which is spreading among Wall Street analysts.

On Tuesday, the Dow average eased by 1.16 to 2,070.46.

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INTERIM REPORT

Unaudited results for the six months ended	1987	1986
December 31st		
Turnover	£ 7.7m	£ 6.3m
Profit before tax	498,000	383,000
Profit after tax	332,000	253,000
Earnings per share	12.96p	10.12p
Dividend per share	3.50p	2.70p
2 for 1 Bonus Issue		

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John Delaney, Chairman

127 Whitehall Court, London SW1

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Steve Jenkins (left) Royal Trust Bank and Robin Jenkin, EES, viewing "Watchdog".



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Gevaert seeks for claim

(Reuters) — Gevaert, the Belgian firm, is seeking compensation for the damage to its shares in the European Community. The firm is claiming that the Community's monetary policy has caused a loss of value to its shares. The firm is seeking compensation for the damage to its shares in the European Community. The firm is claiming that the Community's monetary policy has caused a loss of value to its shares.

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Cellular rad

The European Commission is considering a proposal for a new regulation on the use of mobile phones. The proposal is aimed at ensuring the safety of users and the environment. The Commission is considering a proposal for a new regulation on the use of mobile phones. The proposal is aimed at ensuring the safety of users and the environment.

TRADITIONAL OPT

The traditional optical industry is facing a new challenge from the digital revolution. The industry is seeking ways to adapt to the new technology and maintain its competitive edge. The traditional optical industry is facing a new challenge from the digital revolution. The industry is seeking ways to adapt to the new technology and maintain its competitive edge.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST

The Government of Western Australia is announcing a new initiative to support the local economy. The initiative is aimed at providing financial assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs. The Government of Western Australia is announcing a new initiative to support the local economy. The initiative is aimed at providing financial assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY

The notice of preliminary results for the first half of the year has been issued. The results show a steady increase in revenue and profitability. The notice of preliminary results for the first half of the year has been issued. The results show a steady increase in revenue and profitability.

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Telephone 22 22 is a new service that allows users to make long-distance calls at a reduced rate. The service is available to all users and is a great way to save money on your phone bills. Telephone 22 22 is a new service that allows users to make long-distance calls at a reduced rate. The service is available to all users and is a great way to save money on your phone bills.

صكنا من الامل

**From Richard Long,
Wellington**

The capital increase could radically alter the balance of power in the battle.

'Prudent' move: David Lange, New Zealand Prime Minister

From

Evergo owns 48.5 per cent of Chinese Estates, another au vehicle, which yesterday reported net losses of HK\$171 million for the year ending December 31, compared with

By Colin Narbrough

The total gold supply in the Western world is projected to rise to 1,724 tonnes this year from 1,647 tonnes last while demand will climb to 1,280 tonnes from 1,253 tonnes, with jewellery demand up 15 tonnes at 815 tonnes. This puts the estimated surplus at 444 tonnes, compared with 394 tonnes last year.

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Evergo owns 48.5 per cent of Chinese Estates, another au vehicle, which yesterday reported net losses of HK\$171 million for the year ending December 31, compared with

burgeoning profits to

ash. Many companies were paying shareholders funds to stay the market, and 10 companies have already written-off or made provision for a total of just over HK\$1.1 billion.

By Cliff Feltham

He said that the finance division had made "an incredibly good start" to the current year.

On the stock market the shares went up better, to 124p.

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

OPTIONS		
Declaration June 6	For Settlement June 13	E
Turn Venture, SI Group, Oxford Instru-		A
stry, Suter, Bejam, Control Securities,		A
p/p, Northern Kalgoorli Mines, Sound		A
		B

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RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]**RACE**

LENDING RATES

ABN	9.00%
Adam & Company	9.00%
ABCCI	9.00%
Consolidated Crds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%
Lloyds Bank	9.00%
Nat. Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%
TSB	9.00%
Bank NA	9.00%

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Afonio S. Tevita

	1987	1986
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	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Premium Income	Underwriting Result
	£M	£M	£M	£M
U.K.	820.2	(18.6)	720.0	(64.9)
U.S.A.	723.8	(33.7)	812.6	(67.3)
EEC other than UK	149.9	(14.5)	152.3	(23.6)
Canada	240.3	(3.2)	261.4	(8.4)
Other Overseas	138.4	(7.7)	132.9	(12.3)
London Market Business incl. internal reinsurance	96.9	(20.6)	105.6	(4.4)
	<u>2,169.5</u>	<u>(98.3)</u>	<u>2,184.8</u>	<u>(180.9)</u>

	1987 £M	1986 £M
New Life and Annuity Premiums		
Annual	34.7	39.2
Single	36.4	30.5

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 4th May 1988, a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 22.5p per share (1986 18.0p) payable on or after 1st July 1988, to Shareholders on the register on 1st June 1988. The total dividend for the year of 35.0p per share (1986 - 28.0p per share) will cost £66.5m (1986 £51.6m).

The Directors would like the ability to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive the 1987 final dividend and future dividends in the form of fully paid ordinary shares in the Corporation in lieu of some or all of their cash dividend. Shareholders will be asked

Net Assets

(1900-1911):

World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

Asiabank A/C	112	119.98	+0.27	1.47
Asiabank B/C	42.0	49.49	+0.03	2.24
Commerzbank A/C	107	109.00	+0.07	1.38
Commerzbank B/C	59.7	60.00	+0.00	1.34
European A/C	98.7	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Do Acc	101	105.00	+0.00	1.24
Europabank A/C	98.1	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Europabank B/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Genbank A/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Genbank B/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo A/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo B/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/A	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/B	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/C	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/D	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/E	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/F	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
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Indo C/V	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/W	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/X	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/Y	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/Z	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/AZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/BZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ CV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/CZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/DZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ED	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ER	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ES	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ET	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/ EV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/EZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/FZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GH	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GY	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/GZ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HA	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HB	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HC	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HD	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HE	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HF	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HG	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HI	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HJ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HK	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HL	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HM	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HN	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HO	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HP	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HQ	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HR	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HS	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HT	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HU	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HV	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HW	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24
Indo C/HX	101	105.00	+0.07	1.24

1. 1975-1976: 74.7 (range 74.7-74.8)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES		OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for March 2		Argentina (aerial)	11 0380.1

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

5800	Switzerland	1.3995-1.4005	Hong Kong	7.7980-7.8000
3850	Netherlands	1.9021-1.9031	Portugal	138.70-139.20

Discount Market Loans %

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

week: 9-8% 1 mth: 9-8% 3 mth: 9¹¹/₁₆-9¹⁴/₁₆ 6 mth: 9¹¹/₁₆-9¹⁴/₁₆ 9 mth: 9¹¹/₁₆-9¹⁴/₁₆ 12 mth: 9¹¹/₁₆-9¹⁴/₁₆ Call: 1¹¹/₁₆-1¹⁴/₁₆ Yrs: 3¹¹/₁₆-3¹⁴/₁₆ 3¹¹/₁₆-3¹⁴/₁₆ 3¹¹/₁₆-3¹⁴/₁₆ 3¹¹/₁₆-3¹⁴/₁₆

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up due February 29, 1988. Agreed rates March 28, 1988 to April 25, 1988. Scheme I: 10.45 per cent. Schemes II & III:

US Treasury Bond				Previous open interest	
Mar 88	90.65	90.73	90.64	90.73	2528
Jun 88	90.51	90.60	90.51	90.60	3581
Jun 88	90.44	90.54	90.44	90.54	67
Mar 88	94.23	95.09	94.23	95.02	
Jun 88	94.10	94.01	94.10	94.01	

[illegible]

an April
es, but
advised

COCOA
Mar 971-988

G W Joynton
Dec 1050-049

Official prices/volume previous day

Rudolf Wolf

G W Joyman	Lead	365.00-566.00	345.00-345.50	22975	Stand
Nov 1289-288	Zinc Hi Gde	505.00-507.00	509.00-509.50	29000	Stand
Jan 1306-300	Silver Largest	621.00-621.50	620.50-620.50		Stand

WHEAT close (2/)	Vol 180	Open	Close	(1/2)
Mr 104.85	My 107.40	3 110.15	14 106.00	

50 Mr 104.85	Oct	94.50	94.50	Eng/Wal (%)	+3.9	+11.6	-6.1
	Live Cattle Contract			Eng/Wal (p)	67.80	171.50	108.1
	Apr	110.00	110.00	Eng/Wal (+/-)	+0.64	+21.77	+1.1

1. 1960

Gross Yld	1987/88	Price	Gross Yld	1987/88	Price	Gross Yld	1987/88	Price
-----------	---------	-------	-----------	---------	-------	-----------	---------	-------

[illegible]

0	2	34.8	4.3	314	187	99	Keywest	0 'scs	127	124	-1	38	29	44.7
1	2	4.5	3.7	76.0	68	310	Keywest	Smaller	425	435	+7	130	10	43.2

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

SHORTS UNDER

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX LINKED

BANKS DISCOUNT

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
Claims required for 52 points

ACCUMULATOR £88,000
Claims better than 52 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price-earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

PR	1987 Low		Company	Price		Greens
	High	Low		Bid	Offer	
105	265	12	Huntley P.S.	190	200	
	267	18	W. L. & S.	11	13	+ 12.1
	269	18	1987	10	12	
120	270	18	1987	10	12	+ 13.6
121	270	18	1987	10	12	+ 42.7
122	270	18	1987	10	12	
123	270	18	1987	10	12	
124	270	18	1987	10	12	
125	270	18	1987	10	12	
126	270	18	1987	10	12	
127	270	18	1987	10	12	
128	270	18	1987	10	12	
129	270	18	1987	10	12	
130	270	18	1987	10	12	
131	270	18	1987	10	12	
132	270	18	1987	10	12	
133	270	18	1987	10	12	
134	270	18	1987	10	12	
135	270	18	1987	10	12	
136	270	18	1987	10	12	
137	270	18	1987	10	12	
138	270	18	1987	10	12	
139	270	18	1987	10	12	
140	270	18	1987	10	12	
141	270	18	1987	10	12	
142	270	18	1987	10	12	
143	270	18	1987	10	12	
144	270	18	1987	10	12	
145	270	18	1987	10	12	
146	270	18	1987	10	12	
147	270	18	1987	10	12	
148	270	18	1987	10	12	
149	270	18	1987	10	12	
150	270	18	1987	10	12	
151	270	18	1987	10	12	
152	270	18	1987	10	12	
153	270	18	1987	10	12	
154	270	18	1987	10	12	
155	270	18	1987	10	12	
156	270	18	1987	10	12	
157	270	18	1987	10	12	
158	270	18	1987	10	12	
159	270	18	1987	10	12	
160	270	18	1987	10	12	
161	270	18	1987	10	12	
162	270	18	1987	10	12	
163	270	18	1987	10	12	
164	270	18	1987	10	12	
165	270	18	1987	10	12	
166	270	18	1987	10	12	
167	270	18	1987	10	12	
168	270	18	1987	10	12	
169	270	18	1987	10	12	
170	270	18	1987	10	12	
171	270	18	1987	10	12	
172	270	18	1987	10	12	
173	270	18	1987	10	12	
174	270	18	1987	10	12	
175	270	18	1987	10	12	
176	270	18	1987	10	12	
177	270	18	1987	10	12	
178	270	18	1987	10	12	

132	178	53	On On	79	131	86
84	815	315	Schwarz	45	525	75
348	490	748	Smith David	330	355	77
	655	270	Smith Jeff	395	405	
	230	190	Thompson	75	75	

540	100	Top	228	228	-	-	-
391	165	WCS	228	228	-	-	-
111	203	WPP	229	227	-1	-1	27
334	99	Wace	220	220	-2	-2	34
345	156	Waterford JI	178	183	-	-	107
560	122	Waterford	385	385	-	-	3
510	127	Waverley Can.	80	85	-3	-3	041
267	133	Yellowknife	153	158	-1	-1	31

PROPERTY							
136	70	Allied Lns	105	110	-	-	29
306	108	Alpenstein Sats	192	192	-47	-27	10
169	64	24th	224	224	-	-	20

[illegible]

27	170	Campanella	215	158	
28	170	Campanella	215	158	
29	170	Campanella	215	158	
30	170	Campanella	215	158	
31	170	Campanella	215	158	
32	170	Campanella	215	158	
33	170	Campanella	215	158	
34	170	Campanella	215	158	
35	170	Campanella	215	158	
36	170	Campanella	215	158	
37	170	Campanella	215	158	
38	170	Campanella	215	158	
39	170	Campanella	215	158	
40	170	Campanella	215	158	
41	170	Campanella	215	158	
42	170	Campanella	215	158	
43	170	Campanella	215	158	
44	170	Campanella	215	158	
45	170	Campanella	215	158	
46	170	Campanella	215	158	
47	170	Campanella	215	158	
48	170	Campanella	215	158	
49	170	Campanella	215	158	
50	170	Campanella	215	158	
51	170	Campanella	215	158	
52	170	Campanella	215	158	
53	170	Campanella	215	158	
54	170	Campanella	215	158	
55	170	Campanella	215	158	
56	170	Campanella	215	158	
57	170	Campanella	215	158	
58	170	Campanella	215	158	
59	170	Campanella	215	158	
60	170	Campanella	215	158	
61	170	Campanella	215	158	
62	170	Campanella	215	158	
63	170	Campanella	215	158	
64	170	Campanella	215	158	
65	170	Campanella	215	158	
66	170	Campanella	215	158	
67	170	Campanella	215	158	
68	170	Campanella	215	158	
69	170	Campanella	215	158	
70	170	Campanella	215	158	
71	170	Campanella	215	158	
72	170	Campanella	215	158	
73	170	Campanella	215	158	
74	170	Campanella	215	158	
75	170	Campanella	215	158	
76	170	Campanella	215	158	
77	170	Campanella	215	158	
78	170	Campanella	215	158	
79	170	Campanella	215	158	
80	170	Campanella	215	158	
81	170	Campanella	215	158	
82	170	Campanella	215	158	
83	170	Campanella	215	158	
84	170	Campanella	215	158	
85	170	Campanella	215	158	
86	170	Campanella	215	158	
87	170	Campanella	215	158	
88	170	Campanella	215	158	
89	170	Campanella	215	158	
90	170	Campanella	215	158	
91	170	Campanella	215	158	
92	170	Campanella	215	158	
93	170	Campanella	215	158	
94	170	Campanella	215	158	
95	170	Campanella	215	158	
96	170	Campanella	215	158	
97	170	Campanella	215	158	
98	170	Campanella	215	158	
99	170	Campanella	215	158	
100	170	Campanella	215	158	

[illegible]

176	61	Man	72	87	13
204	114	Overland	72	72	0
205	115	Overland	97	97	0
206	116	Overland	97	97	0
207	117	Overland	97	97	0
208	118	Overland	97	97	0
209	119	Overland	97	97	0
210	120	Overland	97	97	0
211	121	Overland	97	97	0
212	122	Overland	97	97	0
213	123	Overland	97	97	0
214	124	Overland	97	97	0
215	125	Overland	97	97	0
216	126	Overland	97	97	0
217	127	Overland	97	97	0
218	128	Overland	97	97	0
219	129	Overland	97	97	0
220	130	Overland	97	97	0
221	131	Overland	97	97	0
222	132	Overland	97	97	0
223	133	Overland	97	97	0
224	134	Overland	97	97	0
225	135	Overland	97	97	0
226	136	Overland	97	97	0
227	137	Overland	97	97	0
228	138	Overland	97	97	0
229	139	Overland	97	97	0
230	140	Overland	97	97	0
231	141	Overland	97	97	0
232	142	Overland	97	97	0
233	143	Overland	97	97	0
234	144	Overland	97	97	0
235	145	Overland	97	97	0
236	146	Overland	97	97	0
237	147	Overland	97	97	0
238	148	Overland	97	97	0
239	149	Overland	97	97	0
240	150	Overland	97	97	0
241	151	Overland	97	97	0
242	152	Overland	97	97	0
243	153	Overland	97	97	0
244	154	Overland	97	97	0
245	155	Overland	97	97	0
246	156	Overland	97	97	0
247	157	Overland	97	97	0
248	158	Overland	97	97	0
249	159	Overland	97	97	0
250	160	Overland	97	97	0
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257	167	Overland	97	97	0
258	168	Overland	97	97	0
259	169	Overland	97	97	0
260	170	Overland	97	97	0
261	171	Overland	97	97	0
262	172	Overland	97	97	0
263	173	Overland	97	97	0
264	174	Overland	97	97	0
265	175	Overland	97	97	0
266	176	Overland	97	97	0
267	177	Overland	97	97	0
268	178	Overland	97	97	0
269	179	Overland	97	97	0
270	180	Overland	97	97	0
271	181	Overland	97	97	0
272	182	Overland	97	97	0
273	183	Overland	97	97	0
274	184	Overland	97	97	0
275	185	Overland	97	97	0

182	20	130	115		
11	18	130	115		
499	177	130	115		

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

March 3, 1988

Gordon Ewan, a training specialist, offers a way of matching some of the jobless millions with the thousands of vacancies

We have more than two and a half million unemployed and thousands of vacancies at the same time. It is a gross mis-match and waste of resources. Government says it is industry's role to recruit, train and develop staff to adequate levels of competence. It notes that some companies or sectors of industry are reluctant to do so.

Last week COSIT (the Computing Services Industry Training Council) launched its new training career development programme for the computing services industry, the Industry Standard Development Programme (ISDP). This programme is the culmination of five years of pilot running of an earlier grant-aided training programme and represents the current best practices of recruitment, training and development of staff within the computing services sector.

The origins go back to the foundation of COSIT, which was set up by the trade body, the Computing Services Association (CSA), and the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), as a far-sighted initiative in 1981 to tackle the shortages of staff hindering the build, take-up and exploitation of computing within the UK.

Then, as now, there were no shortages of keen people desperate to enter computing, and there are no shortages by the 60 or so pages of job advertisements in each of the two leading weekly computer

papers. But there is a crucial shortage of companies willing to make that initial vital investment in recruitment, training and development.

In 1983 after some detailed preparation, COSIT launched a pilot training and career development programme. It was a strategic study aimed to identify the best recruitment and staff development practices currently available. It involved, following successive years of intakes to the industry, recording their formal training, informal training or coaching, and related work experience.

The programme was monitored by a steering committee made up of industry representatives and we used simple record forms and log sheets in order to record the broad parameters and guidelines for periods of training that had been set by the committee. We asked companies to look a year ahead on how they thought staff would perform and then followed that up at the end of the year, asking them to confirm what exactly had happened. This was necessary because we live in a project-driven environment — one of the major challenges is to balance long-term training and development against short-term tactical project needs.

At the peak of the scheme we had nearly 100 companies participating and collected data from thousands of participants. Some companies took hundreds of trainees and some one. An interesting set of data emerged on the

Investing in people is vital for Britain to remain competitive



And it is not just industry that is looking to COSIT for this programme. The MSC, the Information Technology Industry Lead Body and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications are interested in this programme and looking to us and the British Computer Society to help identify employer-industry standards to help validate vocational training in this country.

The Government in its White Paper, *Working Together, Education and Training*, and several reports — *A Challenge To Competency, Competence and Competition* — indicated that some sectors of industry were not investing adequately in training and development. At a time of increasing globalization of trade and service it is seen as vital that we invest in our people in order to remain competitive both internally and, more importantly, internationally.

This novel exciting scheme is an important initiative to help the individual employee, the employer, the industry and the UK to build a stock of skilled, trained staff to lead the UK successfully through the information technology revolution.

Gordon Ewan is director of the Computing Services Industry Training Council.

For further information please contact Charlotte McCauley, COSIT, Premier House, 150 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AL (01-837 6925)

recruitment, training and development practices of the companies that were participating with us. A heartening number of them, contrary to perceived wisdom, were small companies.

Year on year we collected data on every new group as it started work and tracked experienced staff as they developed. Broadly similar patterns of activity emerged.

Two years ago we started to codify the patterns we had identified into what we have launched as our Industry Standard Development Programme. The heart of this scheme is the software development life cycle, which is the basic activity underpinning computing service companies.

We have decomposed the tasks to a level where activity can be specified precisely. We are setting performance criteria for all activities written in an objective manner such that they can be used in a performance appraisal review to establish when staff reach the set level of competence.

This level is attained on average about four years into work for a typical graduate. But no formal education levels have been set and we know from our experience that school-leavers can join and would reach this standard in approximately six years.

We have found a high degree of agreement on what activities experienced staff are able to undertake. Broadly, these are: the ability to lead a small team of three to four staff; commercial awareness and understanding on the nature of the business; participation in client meetings; making presentations; writing reports; and, of course, technical competence.

There is an increasing emphasis on customer contact and understanding of the nature of the business that clients operate. The trick is to describe these activities in such a way that a line manager can use them easily and accurately, but also so that they can be transported across companies, and, of course, are educationally sound.

This programme is owned by "industry". The activities, tasks and parameters have all been agreed by the pioneer companies that are piloting ISDP. These are BIS, CAP, Hoskyns and Systems Designers. The framework of this scheme is built in such a way that as new activities, techniques and methodologies emerge they can be added, and as tasks become de-skilled or redundant they can be dropped. We

have deliberately designed it to be modular and flexible so that it will reflect contemporary needs.

Truly we believe that we have reflected the tasks that are undertaken daily in our business and focused them in such a way that a common standard of performance can be set and a mechanism provided to spread that standard across industry.

Increasingly in computing we are now accepting and using standards, the basic standards of physical communication of data, the OSI-ISO model of open communication, BSI 5750, AQUAP, and so on. The boxes that we use to develop systems are all made up of standard components, chips and microprocessors. We use standard operating systems and now we have a standard for staff performance too.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

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Regional Director
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££18-20k plus car

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To be eligible for this demanding position you must have had pharmaceutical sales experience with a demonstrable track record of achievement.

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developed an individual approach to

market which demands the experience

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capable of undertaking industrial

contract negotiations at board level

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systems. You should write to us in the first

instance, submitting a comprehensive

and full earnings details.

S.R. Lamb

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London W1P 4LS

PROJECT

MANAGEMENT

Commodities trading company

seeks Project Manager

extensive overseas experience

direct the division of

development of value added

in West Africa. Asian

China and Far East

Applicant should have

well as project develop

experience

Experience in these terms

essential together with

local languages. App

reside in London or

Head Office Manager

must be available to travel

and for extended periods

Reply to BOX 66

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

The Design Business Group is an association of 250 leading design businesses formed in 1986 as part of the Chartered Society of Designers. Following an exciting period of rapid growth, the DBG wishes to appoint an energetic



DESIGN BUSINESS GROUP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

who will be responsible for the next stage of the Group's development. This will involve implementing a range of members' services; managing the DBG budget and administrative staff; recruiting new members; and acting as DBG spokesman. The successful candidate is likely to have a strong commercial background - possibly in PR or marketing; sound administrative and management skills; and a good understanding of the design industry. A strong personality and excellent communication skills are essential.

Salary negotiable at c. £20,000. Please apply with cv to: The Chairman, Design Business Group, 29 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG.

Regional Secretary

The Country Landowners' Association Northumberland - Durham/Cleveland

The CLA is a well-established organisation which represents the owners of rural land in England and Wales. It has 80 staff based in its London HQ and in the regions, serving some 44,000 members. Reporting through the Secretary, the successful candidate will be responsible to the Director-General for the overall management of the Association within these areas. Candidates, ideally in their mid to late forties, must be experienced administrators with an enthusiastic and flexible approach. An appreciation of farming and country life and a wide interest in public affairs are essential. Candidates must reside within the region. This is a permanent, salaried appointment. Benefits include car, pension scheme and paid holidays. Please write - in confidence - enclosing your CV and highlighting any experience of agriculture, land management, committee work, administration and canvassing. Closing date for receipt of applications is 18th March, 1988. Mrs L. Gifford, ref. A20269.

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S. R. Lamb, AUERBACH HOPE, 58-60 Berners Street, London W1P 4JS

PROJECT MANAGER

Commodities trading company seeks Project Manager with extensive overseas experience to direct the division responsible for development of Value Added Project in West Africa, Asian Sub-Continent, China and Far East.

Applicant should have financial as well as project development experience.

Experience in these territories is essential together with knowledge of local languages. Applicant must reside in London to participate in Head Office Management, but also must be available to travel frequently and for extended periods.

Reply to BOX G67.

Sales Development Manager

We are an expanding company, within the Hill Samuel Group, specialising in the provision of mortgages, personal credit and banking facilities.

This new post offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for a highly motivated individual with a marketing background and experience in financial services, particularly mortgages. The role will involve promoting the company's products to the Group's large direct and broker salesforce and major intermediaries. There will also be involvement in formal training. Applicants under the age of 30 are unlikely to have the necessary experience.

Reporting to the Marketing Manager, the position will be based in East Croydon. To a person with the right level of experience the salary will be c. £18,500 p.a. In addition there is a full banking benefits package which includes subsidised mortgage, company car, non-contributory pension, bonus scheme and free BUPA.

Please telephone or send c.v. to: Peter Handford, Personnel Officer, Hill Samuel Personal Finance Limited, 6 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PL. Telephone: 01-828 5241.

HILL SAMUEL PERSONAL FINANCE LIMITED

SALES MANAGEMENT Military equipment - world markets

Our client, a leading supplier to worldwide defence markets, wishes to strengthen his sales team. The company manufactures and markets an excellent range of high quality military sighting systems to over 35 countries. At the same time it maintains its position as a leading supplier to the Ministry of Defence. A continuous programme of product development backed by sound capital investment has kept the company's products at the forefront of its particular market segment. Three key sales appointments must be made to capitalise on these strengths.

SALES MANAGER

To be considered for this key role you will need solid experience in the defence industry. This will ideally have been gained in the military sighting systems market or in another sector of the defence industry. As a result you will be fully conversant with Ministry of Defence procedures. Your experience will have equipped you with the skills to negotiate successfully with government and military personnel in the UK and overseas. You will have a technical background and at some point in your career you may have been a systems engineer.

Ideally aged between 35 and 45 years, your personal qualities will be a rare combination of intelligence, patience, diplomacy and drive which you will employ to the full when leading the sales and technical team successfully to obtain complex long term contracts.

In addition to an absorbing job you will enjoy an attractive remuneration package which includes a competitive salary, executive car, private health insurance and other benefits associated with a large corporation. Success in this role will present the opportunity for advancement both within the company and the group.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS

To be a successful applicant for one of these two key sales roles you will have relevant experience in either: Middle East/Africa, or Americas/Europe.

You should have the general skills and abilities of the Sales Manager but particular expertise in your sector of the world market. Again there is an attractive remuneration package and opportunity for career advancement.

Please send clearly which of the three appointments you are applying for and send your CV to:

(Ref: SM13) TACK House, 1-5 Longmoore St, London SW1V 1JJ. Executive Selection

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Reporting to the Finance Director and with a team of five to manage, the Management Accounting Manager will undertake an extensive review and upgrade of the full range of costing and management reporting systems. Sophisticated computer software is available to assist in the production, analysis and presentation of quality financial information.

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Mason & Nurse Selection & Search

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100% travel is offered to a young qualified accountant by this major international group. The appointed person will undertake a range of both systems and operational audits as group locations throughout the European regions. Excellent career prospects are offered to successful individuals. Ref: DS.

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Please contact Darrell Smith on 01-387 5400, (01-463 0471 even/weekends) or alternatively write to: Financial Selection Services, Drayton House, Gordon St., London WC1H 0AN.

This leading Pk in the Building materials and construction sectors is currently looking to recruit a qualified accountant for a senior role in their high profile audit department. Candidates should possess the potential to progress to a management role within a two year period. Ref: JE.

Financial SELECTION SERVICES The Audit Specialists

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Assistant Director

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The Assistant Director will also assume responsibility for New Initiatives, and assist in the administrative and development functions of the Director as required. For this key post, a starting salary is offered of: £15,106 p.a.

Pension, Private Health and Car User Schemes are available to established staff.

Car ownership is essential.

We may be able to assist the successful applicant with housing.

Please apply in writing, providing full details of education, career, and personal qualities that you feel suit you for this post to:

The Director

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Mid-Wales Housing Association



01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

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CJRA

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3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 6PU. TELEPHONE 01-538 3568 or 01-538 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501. ORGANISATIONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE ON RECRUITMENT - PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01-628 7639

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Probably a graduate, aged mid-thirties to early thirties, you will be totally responsible for managing planning and recruitment, development and training, payroll control, administration and implementation of employment legislation.

If you're ready to take your next step into an expanding business, then write with career details to: Marian Harpell, Director, MK Recruitment Ltd, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DS, 01-499 5306.

HK

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS TO THE RETAIL INDUSTRY

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Bladon Lines Travel Ltd, specialist tour operator seek a career minded person to assume responsibility for the contracting and management of their summer programme and to generally assist with the Winter Ski programme.

Applicants should be at least 24 years of age, with a sound knowledge of Hotel Management and the travel industry and preferably one or more foreign languages.

Please apply to

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SW15 1SF

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PHYSICAL HEALTH CENTRE

Physiocare is a new and exciting concept requiring home agents for demonstrating Physiotherapy products to potential customers in their own homes. Successful applicants must enjoy helping people and be available for working flexible hours on company appointments. A reliable vehicle is essential and applicants must be self-motivated enough to require in the region of £20,000 p.a. in the early state of their careers.

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If you are ambitious and consider helping people your top priority please send CV to Physiocare Ltd, 19 Woodside Parade, Edgware, London H18 1ND, or telephone (0203) 784414 and ask for the person who will be delighted to have an informal chat about the company and career prospects.

N.B. Chartered Physiotherapists who desire full or part time work in the private sector should also forward CV to be placed on the Physiocare register.

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Reporting directly to the Chairman, you will have total responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company. Your success depends on your ability to motivate and manage diverse departments.

Ideally you must be experienced in profitable management, preferably with a sales/marketing background. Your skills must incorporate computer literacy, systems orientation, and general organisation, with special emphasis on communication both internally and externally.

This appointment is an outstanding career opportunity in a challenging and dynamic environment and carries a remuneration package which reflects the High Level Appointment, and includes a Company Car, Sickness and Pension Scheme.

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Please send full career résumé to
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Telephone: 01-951 1067

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Technical Director

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The Technical Director will be responsible to the Board for the planning, design, construction and operation of the network to internationally defined standards and will also be responsible for technical training.

The successful candidate probably will be aged around 40, with a good technical degree and an up to date knowledge of cable technology and will come from a background where customer service is a primary objective.

This is a demanding and challenging post which will provide a unique opportunity to play a leading role in the development of a cable system pre-eminent in the United Kingdom.

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HILL SAMUEL
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SECRETARY AND FINANCE OFFICER

required by small charity concerned with practice, training and research in psychotherapy, from about 1 July 1988.

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Further information and application form available from The Secretary, Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology, Tavistock Centre, Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA.

Tel (01) 435 7111

DIRECTOR GENERAL for the Sports Council

The Sports Council is a progressive body with a continuing commitment, under its Royal Charter, to "Develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in the interests of social welfare and the enjoyment of leisure among the public at large in Great Britain, and to encourage the attainment of high standards in conjunction with the governing bodies of sport and physical recreation."

To this end the Council is actively engaged in the implementation of a major strategy of sport for all.

The present Director General is retiring towards the end of the year and applications for the appointment of his successor are now being invited.

The new Director General will have exceptional management abilities and communication skills, allied to a wide knowledge of sport and physical recreation. He/she will already have held a position of high

responsibility in the public or private sector.

The successful candidate must have a genuine enthusiasm for the aims and objectives of the Sports Council and a determination and vision to take the organisation forward into the next decade so that these aims and objectives can be realised.

In his/her capacity as Chief Executive and Accounting Officer, the Director General is responsible for the overall management of some 650 staff and for the control of the Council's budget of £45 million.

A salary of up to £38,480 will be offered.

Applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, in confidence to:-

Les Wright, Principal Personnel Officer,
The Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place,
London WC1H 0DP.
Closing date: 21st March 1988

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LONDON

SALARY-£50,000

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The person appointed will be a member of the Cipfa Services Ltd board and, as such, will be required to contribute to the corporate affairs of the company.

In addition to the normal fringe benefits attaching to a post of this seniority, the remuneration package will include the opportunity to participate in the equity of the company.

Applications, which will be treated in the strictest confidence, should enclose a CV and be addressed to Philip Sellers, Chairman (ref MD/MC), Cipfa Services Ltd, Heron House, 10 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX.

Cipfa Services Ltd



TRANSLATOR

The above vacancy exists in the Language Services Section of LANDSOUTH HQs (NATO) located in VERONA, Italy.

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Duties:

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Basic monthly salary:

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Please apply in writing not later than 31st March 1988 enclosing c.v. and photocopies of probatory documents to:

LANDSOUTH HQs
Civilian Personnel Branch
via Scabi 25
37121 VERONA, Italy

Part-Time Coroner

- York District

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of part-time Coroner for the Coroners District of York in the County of North Yorkshire. A Coroner must be a Barrister, a Solicitor, or legally qualified Medical Practitioner, of at least five years standing.

Salary and Conditions of Service will be in accordance with the JMC for Coroners. The salary in the first instance will be based on an average caseload for the District of 727 with a County loading of 10%. The post-holder is eligible to join the local government pension scheme, subject to medical clearance, which would give rise to a further salary enhancement of 5.4% making the total salary payable £5,679 p.a. Expenses will be paid in addition to salary.

Applications, enclosing a full C.V. and the names of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be submitted by 10th March, 1988 to the undersigned, and to whom any enquiries should be made. R. J. Evans, Chief Executive and Clerk of the County Council, County Hall, Northcliffe, North Yorkshire YO1 6AD.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Based in central London, with responsibility for developing and running our vasectomy clinics nationwide. You will be a self-starter, educated to graduate level, with good commercial awareness, and will ideally have experience of using computerised databases, word-processors, etc. You will be responsible for promoting the service, and for controlling your own budget, so a degree of financial literacy or aptitude is necessary. A good, sympathetic telephone manner is a must. This is an opportunity to develop your management skills. Starting salary: £11,575, reviewed after 3 months. Please send full CV with daytime telephone number, to the Personnel Manager, Marie Slopes House, 108 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6BE. Closing date 11th March 1988.

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Marc Woolmer
RECRUITMENT

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telephone (0285) 69016.

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It will maintain surveillance over governmental policy-making on AIDS, on public education, preventative health, research and care problems with a view to pin-pointing deficiencies, encouraging effective programmes, and generally ensuring that the problem receives the priority and is tackled with the combination of vigour and sensitivity relative to its importance.

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Initial contract for 15 months.

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Interested in a greater challenge? Then please write, enclosing a full c.v. and details of current salary, to:

R. H. Boddy,
Manager - Human Resources,
GKN Sankey Ltd.,
Headley Castle Works, P.O. Box 20,
Telford, Shropshire TF1 4RE.

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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

Gentle skill beside the chair

In her second article on dentistry, Beryl Dixon looks at the special skills needed by the ancillary staff on whom the dentist relies to provide technical aid, as well as morale-building patient care



Dental surgeons could not work without the support of a trained team. This means that there are other satisfying, although not so well remunerated, careers in dentistry for people as dentists. Those wanting contact with patients can train as dental surgery assistants, hygienists or therapists, while for the potential craftsman/woman there is the behind the scenes job of dental technician.

Dental technicians make the appliances which patients require, learning to work in all kinds of materials. A quick glance in a Yellow Pages directory showed laboratories offering to repair artificial teeth constructed in chrome, cobalt, gold or porcelain. During training, which may be through an apprenticeship or through a full-time course, technicians learn to work in these materials, as well as plaster and plastics.

The job itself can be described as a combination of precision engineering and art. Manual dexterity is highly important; some schools give applicants a test consisting of carving a sphere from a block of wax. Working to the specifications of a dentist, technicians must be capable of making very small appliances which are as perfect a fit as possible and aesthetically pleasing to the patient.

After training technicians may specialise. There are four main areas: prosthetics or removable appliances such as dentures; orthodontic appliances for the correction of irregularities; permanent appliances - crowns and bridges - and maxillo-facial work.

In the last, working with a consultant surgeon, a technician might construct appliances to correct a congenital defect like a cleft palate or to simulate a section of the face after radical surgery. Within these areas, further specialisation is possible. It is not uncommon for a dentist to use one lab for prosthetic and another for crown and bridge work.

Qualified technicians may work in hospitals, Community Dental Service labs or in commercial labs, serving

several dental practices. There, they face commercial pressures much as a general dental practitioner does. Technicians have no permanent contracts: they rely on the quality of their work and the competitiveness of their charges.

Practically every dentist in general or private practice, community or hospital work, works with a nurse or dental surgery assistant (DSA). DSAs carry out the tasks familiar to us all: care and sterilization of instruments, mixing fillings, maintenance of patients' records, tidying up, possibly processing X-rays. In small practices they may also act as receptionists.

The exact combination of duties depends entirely on the dentist. It is, therefore, important that DSAs are able to develop good working relationships with their bosses and learn to adapt to their ways of doing things. Some dental surgeons like, for instance, to practise "four-handed dentistry," which involves the DSA in chairside work, assisting the patient's mouth; others do not. A DSA employed in a practice where associate dentists come and go, or in a hospital, may have to adjust to several different methods.

Formal qualification is not obligatory, although helpful for promotion prospects to Senior DSA in the hospitals and in the Community Dental Service. The National Certificate of the Examining Board for Dental Surgery Assistants may be taken by candidates who hold two GCSE passes. Most receive practical training from their employer and attend a local college part time for theoretical instruction, but there are full-time courses of one or two years in the 17 dental hospitals.

Since the role of DSA is strictly limited - they may do no operational work - some decide to re-train and become therapists or hygienists.

Dental hygienists are permitted to do clinical work: under the general supervision of a dental surgeon they may clean, scale and polish teeth, apply materials such as fluoride, carry out post-operative hygiene in the mouth after

surgery, but may not do extractions or fillings. They also play an important part in preventive dentistry and health education, teaching patients how to care for their teeth properly.

Training is done through a one year, full-time course in a dental hospital or through one of the Armed Services, each of which employs hygienists. In theory, candidates need four GCSE passes, including at least one science, and must have had relevant work experience. In practice, as there are only 100 or so training places every year and competition is quite keen, they usually have well above the minimum number of passes and have three or four years' experience of working as a DSA.

With the growing emphasis on preventive dentistry job prospects for hygienists are increasing, patchily, around the country. All the dental hospitals, and the Community Dental Service, employ them, and in the latter there is some opportunity to specialize in health education if they wish. Seventy per cent, however, work in general practice. Not all dentists see the need for a hygienist, preferring to do that area of work themselves. Others may not have enough work to employ one full time. A large number of hygienists, therefore, work part time or are self-employed and work on a sessional basis for several practices.

Dental therapists also do clinical work, but only on children's teeth and only as prescribed by a dental surgeon. They may not work in general practice; thus the jobs are available in hospitals and in the community service. Some of the work is akin to that of the hygienist - scaling, cleaning, teaching children how to care for their teeth, visiting primary schools and nurseries, and holding sessions in clinics. Unlike hygienists, they may do fillings and extractions on deciduous (first) teeth. It is a job for those who like young children.

There is only one training course, lasting two years, at the London Hospital Dental School, with only eight places a year. The school can pick and choose its students, and looks for at least five GCSEs, personal motivation and experience as a DSA in both general dental practice and a hospital.

Most students are in their early twenties. Students do a combined training, leading to qualification as a hygienist as well. This, explains the school, allows them to work as one or the other, or combine both jobs. Some work for half the week as hygienists and half as therapists. Since each job has a separate code of practice they must confine themselves very strictly to one role at a time.

Further information on all dental careers from: The General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, London W1M.

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Stars News Shops is one of the country's leading newsagency groups with over 250 branches in the West Midlands, Shropshire and the Home Counties.

We are seeking a qualified accountant to manage the preparation of monthly management accounts, cashflow reports and budgets and to prepare final accounts.

The successful applicant will be self-motivating and will be required to lead a small financial team within a demanding, high pressure environment. He/She will have a working knowledge of computerised accounting systems. Preference will be given to applicants with previous retailing experience.

This is a senior position with excellent salary terms and conditions.

Applicants to:

Mr. J. D. Allatt, Director
News Shops Ltd
51/53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 3BU

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Our client, a dynamic, rapidly expanding firm of Accountants, urgently require a high calibre Accountant to assume full control of all accounting and finance matters, at least to Trial Balance. The varied and responsible role offers excellent prospects, constant client and partner liaison. Experience of solicitors' accounting will be an advantage but not essential.

For further information please contact Nick Heyman, the firm's recruitment adviser on 01-242 0508/0544, or write to him at: Selected Accounts Personnel, Hanover House, 73/74 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6LS.

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N.E. LONDON c. £17,000 + Car

The Company Part of a UK quoted group, this is a successful autonomous business with sales of over £12 million, 150 employees at four locations trading as a stockists and distributor of plumbing and bathroom fittings.

The role To take full responsibility for the entire finance function including controls, budgets, cash flow, monthly management and year end accounts. Development of the computer resources, liaison at group level and assisting the MD in decision making are further key areas.

The person You should be a self starter who wished to undertake a full commercial and financial role. A thorough understanding of accounting practices within a major company together with computer literacy are essential requirements. Emphasis will be placed on your potential to fill a Board appointment in 2/3 years.

Please reply with full c.v. to:

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Thursday 3rd March

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or Vicky Bernard

on

01 831 2288

for suitable opportunities.

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requires an

ACCOUNTANT

for the Financial Management Team. Responsibilities include preparing budgets and reports for all Front of House and Premises activities, together with the administration of the company pension schemes, insurance policies and other personnel related matters. Salary by negotiation but not less than £11,500 per annum.

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YOUNG ACCOUNTANT

required by small but rapidly expanding international publishing company to take charge of computerised accounts function and to prepare reports and forecasts using micro-spreadsheet. Excellent opportunity for part-time/qualified person (Age 22-25).

CV to Managing Director, Caversham Press plc, PO Box 367, 180 St. Martins Lane, WC2N 6PR

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Rapid growth has created the need to appoint a financial Controller to help sustain this expansion.

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Please forward your c.v. in complete confidence to: Ref:FC1, McGurran Quest, Milestone, Royal Parade, Chislehurst, Kent.

3 Months Down Under, Europe or the USA. c£18,000

This "Top 8" firm of Chartered Accountants has the connections to provide you with a London base while you gain international experience on assignment in the above locations.

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PERSONNEL RESOURCES

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Do you enjoy the variety of a small, busy office? If so, we are looking for a young, cheerful secretary with excellent typing and some shorthand, an assured manner in dealing with clients face to face and on the telephone and ideally educated to 'A' Level standard. Good salary a.s.e.

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Leading London Estate Agents have some openings for secretaries with common sense and good proven skills. Lively, hard working environment. Salary A.A.E.

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If you have a flair for admin and a keen eye for detail, we have a fantastic opportunity for you. You will be responsible for the day to day running of a busy office, dealing with a wide range of clients and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. This is a challenging role that offers excellent career progression. Salary £11,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: **Meredith Scott Recruitment**, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 6JL. Tel: 01-403 8000.

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Today

Britain's liveliest newspaper invites applications for the following positions to work in our modern offices close to Pimlico tube.

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Please send detailed CV with current salary to: Lindsay Cawston, Personnel Dept., Jaeger, 57 Broadwick St., London W1V 1FU.

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Fancy working for a Chief Executive of a prestigious international company? All executive secretary skills required including Word-perfect WP, numeracy plus VDU skills, knowledge of pensions, sharemarket and insurance. £12,000 + plus executive benefits. Interested?

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Well known West End International Law firm requires PA to assist in the day to day running of the office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, dealing with a wide range of clients and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. This is a challenging role that offers excellent career progression. Salary £12,000 per annum. Please send your CV to: **Annabel Hooper**, 01 235 5842. NO AGENCIES.

Mature Lady (35-55)

Intelligent and well-spoken, experienced and energetic, with secretarial skills - to join our team as (PA) in NW London.

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Senior partner seeks over 25 legal secretary with at least 2 years experience in conveyancing and commercial law

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Small firm of Solicitors based in EC2 on the fringe of Broadgate, require a secretary with good typing skills (no SP necessary). You will be involved in all aspects of legal work. Salary £10,500. Please send your CV to: **Annabel Hooper**, 01 235 5842. NO AGENCIES.

RECRUITMENT

We are a small and busy secretarial agency in Victoria who need to increase our staff by one. Experience in this field is not necessary as we will gladly train you. You should, however, have a good educational background and office experience. Typing an advantage.

You should be able to co-operate happily with other members of a small team and deal courteously and efficiently with callers of all kinds. Salary £9500 + commission. 25+ Please call Jackie on 01-834 0031, St Stephen's Secretariat Ltd, 316, Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1 (rec. cons)

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seeks bi-lingual (French/English) executive secretary (native French tongue), Spanish also useful, to work for Managing Director based in central Paris. Good shorthand and typing skills are required and at least five years experience as Director level.

Please send C.V. indicating daytime telephone number to: Mrs Patricia McNeillage, Reuters Europe Western Region, 29 rue de la Bienfaisance, 75008 PARIS. Tel: 42 21 54 22.

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All salaries are exclusive of a superb range of banking benefits. For an appointment contact Jacqueline Cramer on 01-438 1815

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You may telephone between 9-5 pm weekdays for an informal discussion (prior to written application) on 01 741 4401. Otherwise send a full CV in strict confidence to: David Barber, Managing Director, CPA Ltd, CPA House, 350 King Street, London W6 0RX.

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A leading international product company needs a PA/Secretary to join the personnel team, working for their Director.

Working closely with him and his assistant, your role will involve international recruitment, training and development of personnel, handling the confidential details of personnel systems, and administrative responsibilities for travel and private health schemes.

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West End Office 01 629 9686

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Marketing Director of the prestigious centrally located company, seeks dynamic and dedicated PA to provide full secretarial support. A position offering plenty of scope, prospects and benefits plus opportunities to be trained on the company's desk top publishing technology.

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Newly created key management role is offering involvement in all aspects of office administration from co-ordinating debriefings to recruitment and working closely with the company's communications department. ALSO FOR WELL PAID TEMP ASSIGNMENTS CALL US NOW.

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01-225 1777

14 GREY CASTLE, OXFORD CIRCUS, W1N 1LA

01-255 3140

SECRETARY

OUR SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT NEEDS A SECRETARY INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

If you are ready for your first career move and have excellent secretarial and communication skills, the Royal Society of Chemistry has an exciting opportunity for you.

Our Scientific Affairs Officer requires a well qualified, experienced and reliable secretary to assist in the organisation and running of conferences throughout the year. The position involves travelling to conferences and the successful candidate will be expected to spend some time away from home.

Starting salary negotiable according to age and experience. For more information telephone Valerie Bolden on 01-531 1355 or write enclosing a full CV to: The Royal Society of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DT.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY/PA

£13,500

Friendly Television Promotions Company seeks Secretary/PA for managing Director. You should have high level of initiative, sound organising flair and excellent communication skills. You will be liaising with Senior Managers, dealing with clients, co-ordinating projects and providing excellent secretarial support.

Please apply in writing, with full C.V., to: Bryan Whitman, 16 Great College Street, London SW11.

ASPEN

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c. £10,500 p.a. North Kensington

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EXECUTIVE PA c.£15,000

Join this leading Merchant Bank as PA to their Managing Director and Director of Personnel. This is a challenging and involving position which requires previous Director level experience, energy and commitment. Superb secretarial skills including WP and spreadsheet experience required. Full range of banking benefits offered.

Please telephone 01-248 3744

Early/late appointments arranged

Elizabeth Hunt

2 Bow Lane London EC4

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Please call Dianne Tyler-Ramsey on 221 1819

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE £15,000+

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Good secretarial skills will be required to handle routine matters but equally important in the ability to liaise with the products and so take a greater executive interest in both the company and their marketing.

Directors' Secretaries

01-629 9323

PERSONAL SECRETARY/PA - W1

Join a dynamic team of Chartered Secretaries in a prestigious office in W1. We are seeking a mature and experienced secretary to assist in the day to day running of the office, dealing with a wide range of clients and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. This is a challenging role that offers excellent career progression. Salary £15,000 per annum. Please send your CV to: **Annabel Hooper**, 01 235 5842. NO AGENCIES.

Telephone Claire on 01-935 3906. No agencies.

ADAPTABLE SECRETARY

With good typing skills & confidence to deal with clients. Immediate start in Interior Design business in Chelsea. Please Phone 01-589 0459 Between 10am & 5.30pm

Observe set for another Lingfield victory as Festival stepping stone

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Following form at the highest level invariably pays dividends because horses are usually at their best when there is so much at stake.

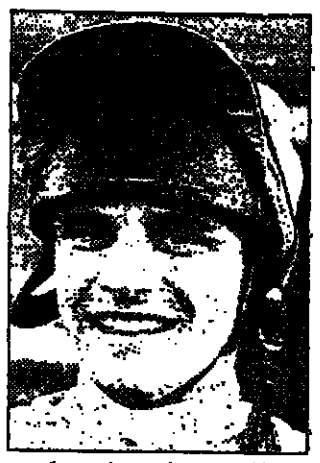
Last year's Christie's Foxhunter Challenge Cup at Cheltenham is a good example. Observe won it by 1½ lengths from three County. They carried the same weight at that occasion as no rider in the race was permitted to claim an allowance.

When the same two horses made their seasonal debut at Cheltenham 12 days ago they again occupied the first two places. Only this time there was half a length between them as Tom Grantham, the rider of Observe, was not entitled to claim whereas Kate Ryan, on the runner-up, could draw her 7lb.

Observe will be under start-up orders again at Lingfield Park this afternoon to contest the R E Sassoon Memorial Hunters' Chase which he also won last season.

Now that we have clear evidence to show that he is as good as ever, he should enjoy a morale-boosting victory limbering up for another crack at the Foxhunter Chase on March 17. He is my nap.

When he won the corresponding event at Lingfield 12 months ago he beat Drumaligan, who was behind him again at Cheltenham recently.



Tom Grantham teams up again with Observe

In the circumstances, it is reasonable to expect both You're Welcome and Veleo to provide the sternest opposition. You're Welcome did after all finish fifth in last year's Grand National.

Earlier in the day, another likely Cheltenham contender, Martin Pipe's unbeaten five-year-old Baldie Star, should win the first division of the Ovington Novices' Hurdle.

The runaway winner of both his races under National Hunt rules, at Nottingham and Stratford, this former winner of the Epsom Blue Bird Stakes, added to his consistently successful training which should be completed by Barry Window (3.30) and Quickstep (4.30).

Having run the useful True Spark to a head at Wincanton last time, Barry Window should manage to win the second division of the Ovington Novices' Hurdle, especially now that he will be getting weight from Hope Diamond who was his inferior on the flat.

Although he has not finished out of the frame in four races over fences this season, Quickstep has not looked altogether convincing. Now I fancy he will be much happier contesting the three Counties Handicap Hurdle and he will be hard to beat even under top weight.

Time may show that Focus On Foster, my selection for the Manifesto Novices' Chase, was attempting the impossible at Folkestone last time when runner-up to Barley Kipper's impressive winner.

At Ludlow, the Forbra Gold Cup looks ready to be won by Castle Warda now that Backstreet Guy, the winner of the trophy last year, and A Sure Row have dropped out unexpectedly overnight.

Special Venture, my selection for the Bromfield Novices' Chase, looked likely to win a similar race at Windsor 12 days ago but fell. She started favourite that day on the strength of her narrow defeat by Bright Intervals at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day and I believe she is worth another chance in this company.

Ascot developing Festival success

By Dick Hinder

Millington's demolition of the formidable French filly Miesage, and Sainquir's battling head victory over Undercut in the Royal Lodge Stakes were just two memorable moments from the inaugural Festival of British Racing at Ascot last September.

The Festival, with an attendance of 77,000, is a resounding success. The idea was conceived by a consortium of breeders, who, under the banner "The Supporters of British Racing", combined with the Ascot authority to present a platform to promote the British racing industry.

Having laid such a firm foundation, the organisers are determined to build on that success and this year's Festival, on September 24, will have total added prize-money of £720,000, the most valuable day's racing ever staged on a British course.

The six-race programme will be the same format as last year, excepting that the Great Wall Stakes, a seven-furlong handicap, (formerly the Belmont Stakes) will be replaced by the Blue Seal Stakes, which has been moved to the Thursday of the three-day meeting.

As part of Brent Walker, another new sponsor is the House Of King, who is putting up £50,000 for the group three Diadem Stakes.

The total is adding £42,500 to the Festival Handicap, Hooper £23,000 to the Fillys' Mile and the European Breeders' Fund £20,000 to the Royal Lodge Stakes. With £190,000 added to the group one Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, this will be a quality card to savour.

Special medallions will be presented to the winners of the first four home in each race, including stable staff, and, in addition, the last or geld in charge of both the winner and best turned-out horse will receive £100.

To encourage a family day out, admission prices are reasonable at £12, the grandstand at £8 and silver ring entry, normally £2.50, subsidised at £1. Colour taccards are free.

BBC's Grandstand programme will, as last year, televise the first five races.

Beau Ranger pleased his trainer, Martin Pipe, who said: "He was always going well, but he soon put the owners favour for the Gold Cup, but we have stacks of options."

Panto Prince needed the race and his trainer, Chris Popham, commented: "He hasn't run for some time, and would have won with a previous outing."

Pipe had earlier introduced a live outsider for the Triumph Hurdle when Chatham made an impressive winning debut in the Ferry Novices' Hurdle.

Although friendship is concerned with his partner, his saying: "That's just what he needed. The ground was rough, particularly on the far side."

William Hill, the bookmakers, keep Forget-N Forget at 7-1 in their Gold Cup betting.

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Bradley in triumphant comeback

Norman Bradley, the Wetherby trainer, made a memorable return to his local course yesterday when his 14-year-old favourite, ridden by his son, Graham, beat Trifalgar Blue in the East Keckwick Handicap Chase.

Bradley, who recently took out a training licence again, said: "It was Graham who made me back into racing with his successful riding career. I hope, when he has finished with riding, he will switch to training."

During my previous training career I managed 61 winners, Bradley senior continued. "I taught Graham to ride when he was 12 years old."

Dark Trix, successful in the Rascall Novices' Chase, will represent trainer Gordon Richards in the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham. Richards also plans to run Randolph Place and Jim Thorpe (Arkle Chase), Tartan Tailor (Champion Hurdle) and the Demon Barber (Covey Chase).

Also Cheltenham-bound is Golden Casino, who earned a tilt at the Foxhunter Chase with his win in the Aberford Hunters' Chase.

The Somerset trainer bought Chatham privately, along with his wife, in France out of Crique's Head's stable.

Gurteen Wood gained a confidence-boosting victory for the Sherwood brothers, Simon and Oliver, in the Fort Royal Novices' Chase.

It was not until two fences out that Gurteen Wood took the measure of long-time leader Aerialist, but he soon put the issue beyond any shadow of doubt and came home four lengths ahead of Cheeky Rupert.

Winning trainer Oliver Sherwood commented: "He jumps perfectly well when he wants to, but lacks confidence."

The winner is owned by Mrs Christopher Heath, whose other horses The West Awake and Rebel are on route for Cheltenham.

He gets a 33-1 quote from Mecca for the Cheltenham four-year-old hurdling championship. "We've not rushed to

get him ready, and I think Cheltenham will suit him," Pipe said.

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LINGFIELD PARK

Selections	By Mandarin
2.00 Baldie Star.	3.30 Barry Window.
2.30 OBSERVE (nap).	4.00 Salehurst.
3.00 Focus On Foster.	4.30 Quickstep.

By Michael Seely
2.00 Baldie Star. 2.30 Observe.
Brian Beel's selection: 2.30 Observe.

Going: good to soft

103	WELLSFORD 12 (G. (A. Kaplan) M. J. P. Man 5-11-10	
104	DECIDED (Shahin Mohamed) G. Sheppard 5-11-4	
105	FIRST DIVISION (A. F. Budge Equine Ltd) S. Christian 5-11-4	
106	FREE AGENT 119 (Mrs R. Lacy) J. Gifford 5-11-4	
107	WYTHAM OF HARLEIGH 30 (G. (A. Kaplan) M. J. P. Man 5-11-10	
108	JIM LORDE 11 (R. Butler) A. Dawson 5-11-4	
109	LORDE IT OVER 12 (Hornblow Ltd) J. Jenkins 5-11-4	
110	MARCHES 468 (Mrs C. Ockwell) J. O'Donoghue 7-11-4	
111	MARCHES STAR 144 (L. Ockwell) J. Gifford 5-11-4	
112	MET STATION 25 (J. Hancock) M. Wilkinson 5-11-4	
113	MOUNT TUMBLEDOWN 467 (Mrs J. Collins) R. Hannan 7-11-4	
114	OLYMPIC THAMES 15 (Pursing Horse Ltd) R. Akhurst 7-11-4	
115	RATHVILLY GUY 425 (P. Hayward) P. Hayward 5-11-4	
116	SARACEN 14 (P. Hayward) P. Hayward 5-11-4	
117	THE QUESTMASTER 7 (M. Nicholls) N. Mitchell 5-11-4	
118	TUNNIN 13 (P. (S. Brid) J. Scollen 5-11-10	
119	CASABLANE 15 (P. Llanes) M. Haynes 4-10-10	
120	GRASS LANE 11 (P. (S. Brid) J. Scollen 5-11-10	
121	RANT ON (J. Mathews) Miss S. Sanders 4-10-10	
122	BETTING: 2-1 Boldie Star, 11-4 Decided, 4-1 First Division, 5-1 Wellsford, 7-1 M. J. P. Man of Harleagh, 14-1 Arabian Blues, 18-1 Free Agent, 20-1 others.	
123	1987 JACK'S LUCK 6-1 S. Sheppard (B-4) M. Tompkins 12	

HOCKEY

43

By Dennis Shaw

One club official observed: "There's no way we want to knock what is basically a marvellous venture but families could book for the weekend and then see their side knocked out in the opening 20 minutes."

Secretary Alvin Evans a vote of confidence, despite criticism of his remarks which preceded the dismissal of manager Mike England.

half the income tax bill of £626,000 from his personal account and would also be settling the remainder of the debt. Money owed to Hampshire Police, a local building contractor and Customs and

By David Rhys Jones

SKIING

corner which gave way to three more in quick succession. The last five minutes of the first half however belonged to Loughborough. First, Bolland struck a

Jones's chagrin at missing Rome meant he did not even watch the world championship race. But he will have to watch the London marathon result next month. For him, a similar

he children

oodbody

schoolchildren when they take

tion in school and unless parents can prove negligence, no compensation is available.

conditions over Cairngorm, Lecht and
Glenshas; showers less frequent at
Glencoe. Outlook for tomorrow; little
change; further showers or longer periods
of snow with gale to storm force northerly
winds giving blizzard conditions at times.
Information supplied by the Scottish
Met Office

70	120
100	190
120	220
50	80
40	160
60	110
80	180
40	90

provincia	100	200
provincia d'Ampezzo	30	130
provincia	70	120
provincia	170	290
provincia	70	120
provincia	100	190
provincia di Campiglio	120	220
provincia di Orob	50	80

desimo	100	130
edonna di Campiglio	120	220
urze d'Omb	50	80
iva di Valgardena	40	160
stiere	60	110
nale	80	180
ileno	40	90

Information supplied by the Italian

iva di Valgardena	40	160
strere	60	110
inale	80	180
ileno	40	90

Information supplied by the Italian
tunist Office.

By Peter Lawson

A constructive partnership between government and sport must be achieved if British sport is to prosper.

No 63,012

Nato fire w at Go

Alliance g business

The first full Nato summit meeting for several years ended yesterday with a display of alliance unity which President Reagan said made Nato the most dynamic force for improvement in West relations.

The summit strong spokesman Mikhail Gorbachev said the West would not be Moscow to have visions among the and laid down the nuclear and arms deterrence.


Nato was also

WIN £88,000

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator

o There is still £88,000 to be won today's Portfolio Accumulator, placing £4,000 daily over (Yesterday's winner page 3).

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



o Today The Times Tournament of the Mind reaches halfway point with another 10 days to go. At the end of the competition the top 100 individual scorers and the top schools will be invited to take the finals, spread over one week. For today's round, turn to page 12.

Hooligan warning

Fears that English football supporters are preparing for a violent confrontation at this year's European Championship were expressed yesterday at the presentation of a report on football hooliganism by a Belgian professor.

"When they meet, they decide once and for all who is the stronger," Professor Walgrave, of the University of Louvain, Belgium, said.

Meanwhile, the British police force's budget has risen by 16 per cent year to £1.65 million.

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